

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT



SPICE & WOK

VOL. 13

STORY:
ISUNA HASEKURA

ART:
KEITO KOUUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA



SPICE & WOLF

SPICE & WOLF

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SPICE & WOLF













WHAT, DID
YOU THINK
I WOULD
CHOOSE
BASED ON
APPEARANCE
ALONE?



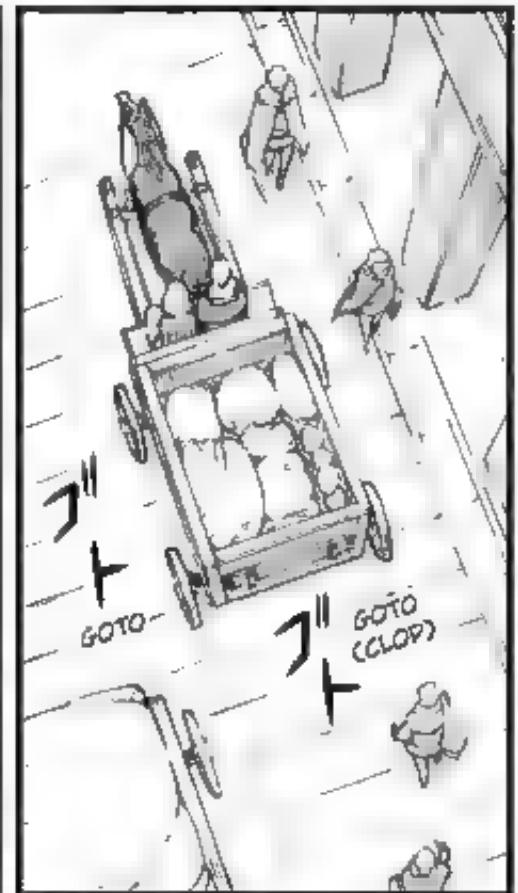
SPICE&WOLF



IT WAS
THE SIXTH
DAY AFTER
LEAVING LENOS,
HIS FIRST
TRIP ALONE
WITH HOLO
IN A WHILE.

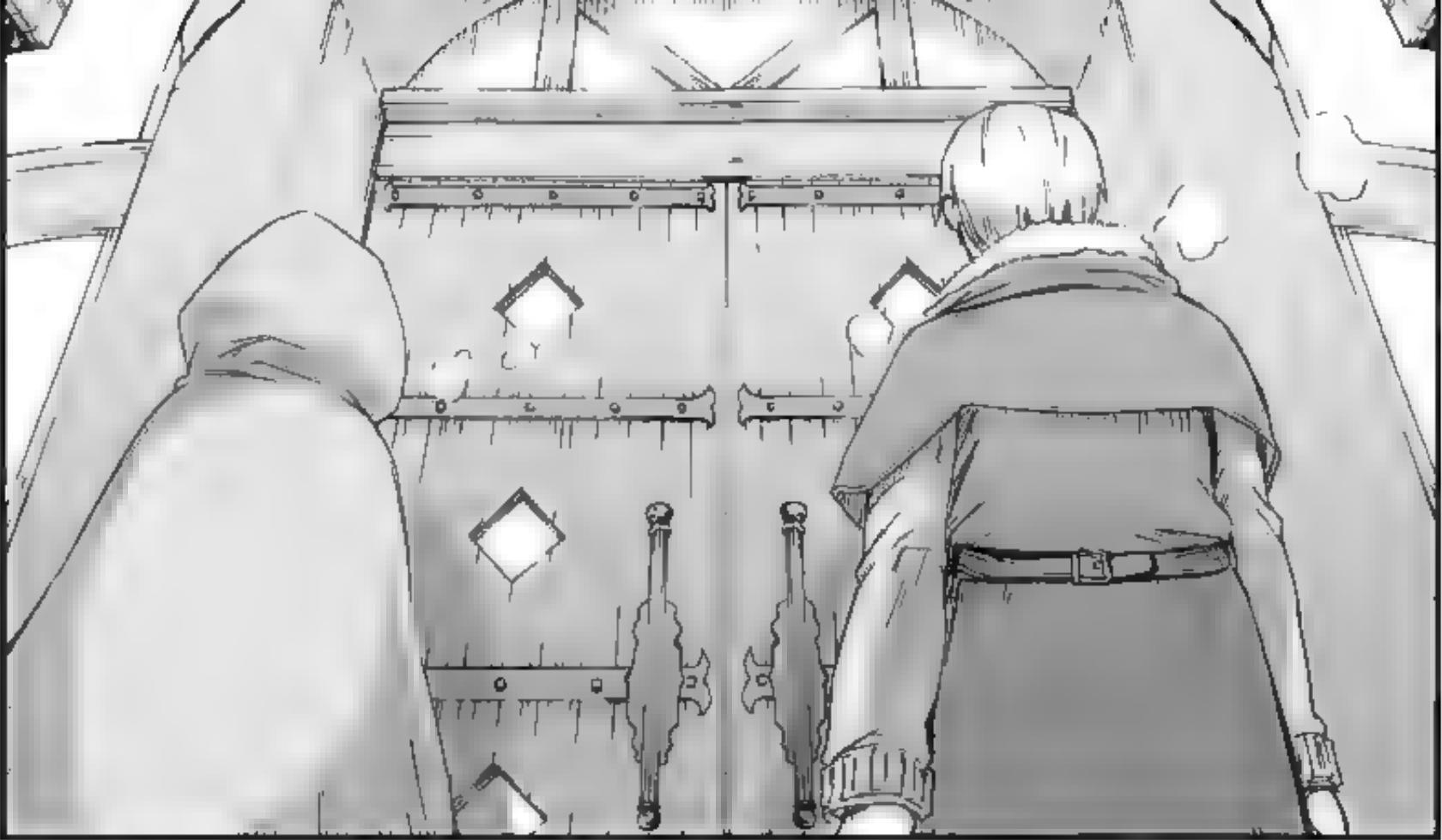






HERE
IT IS.















HOW RUDE OF ME! CERTAINLY, SHE'S A BIT TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE MERCHANDISE.

MY MISTAKE. I WAS CERTAIN YOU'D COME TO SELL ME SOMETHING.

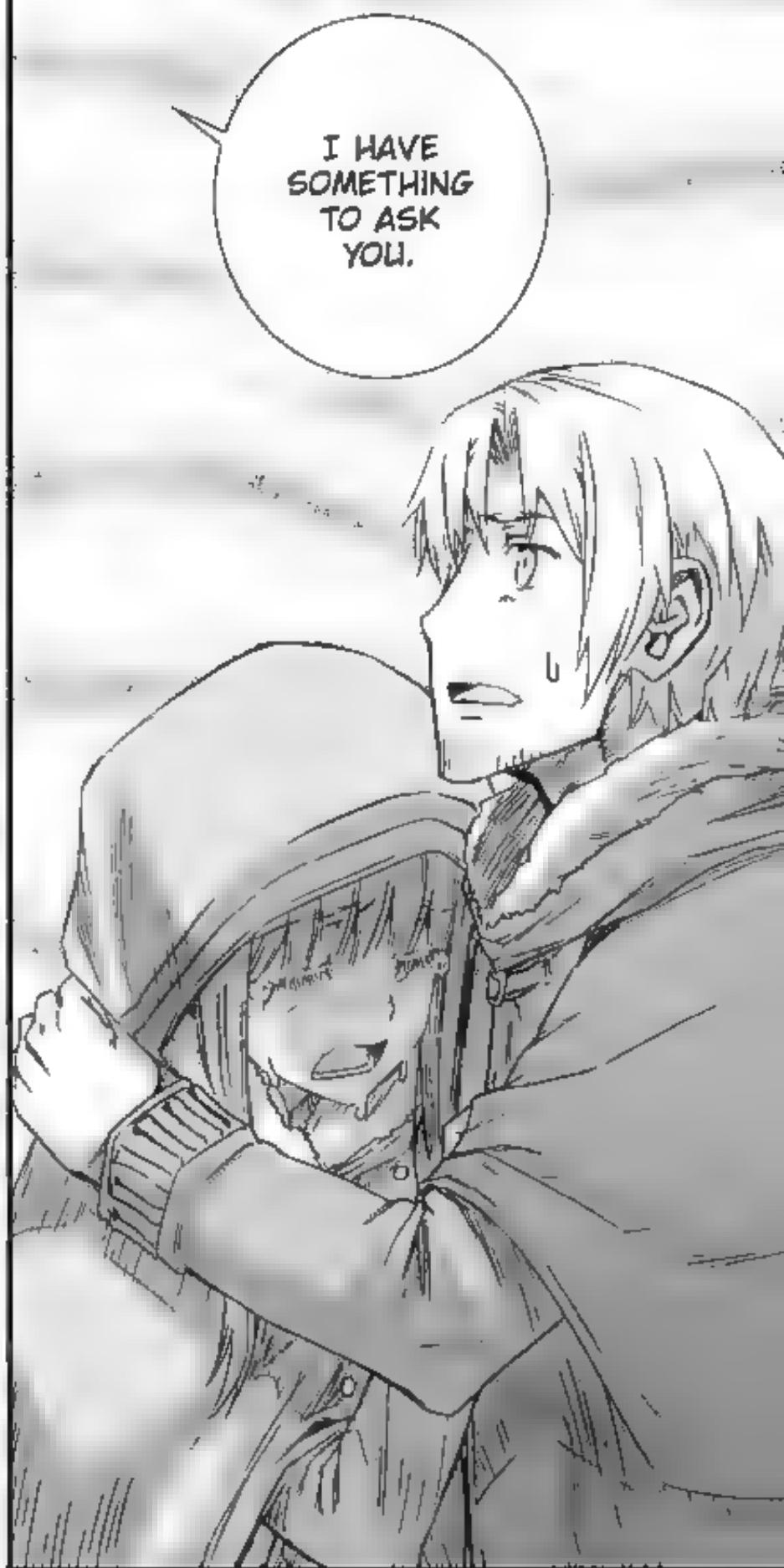
AND? I AM INDEED LUWARD MYURI OF THE MYURI MERCENARY COMPANY.

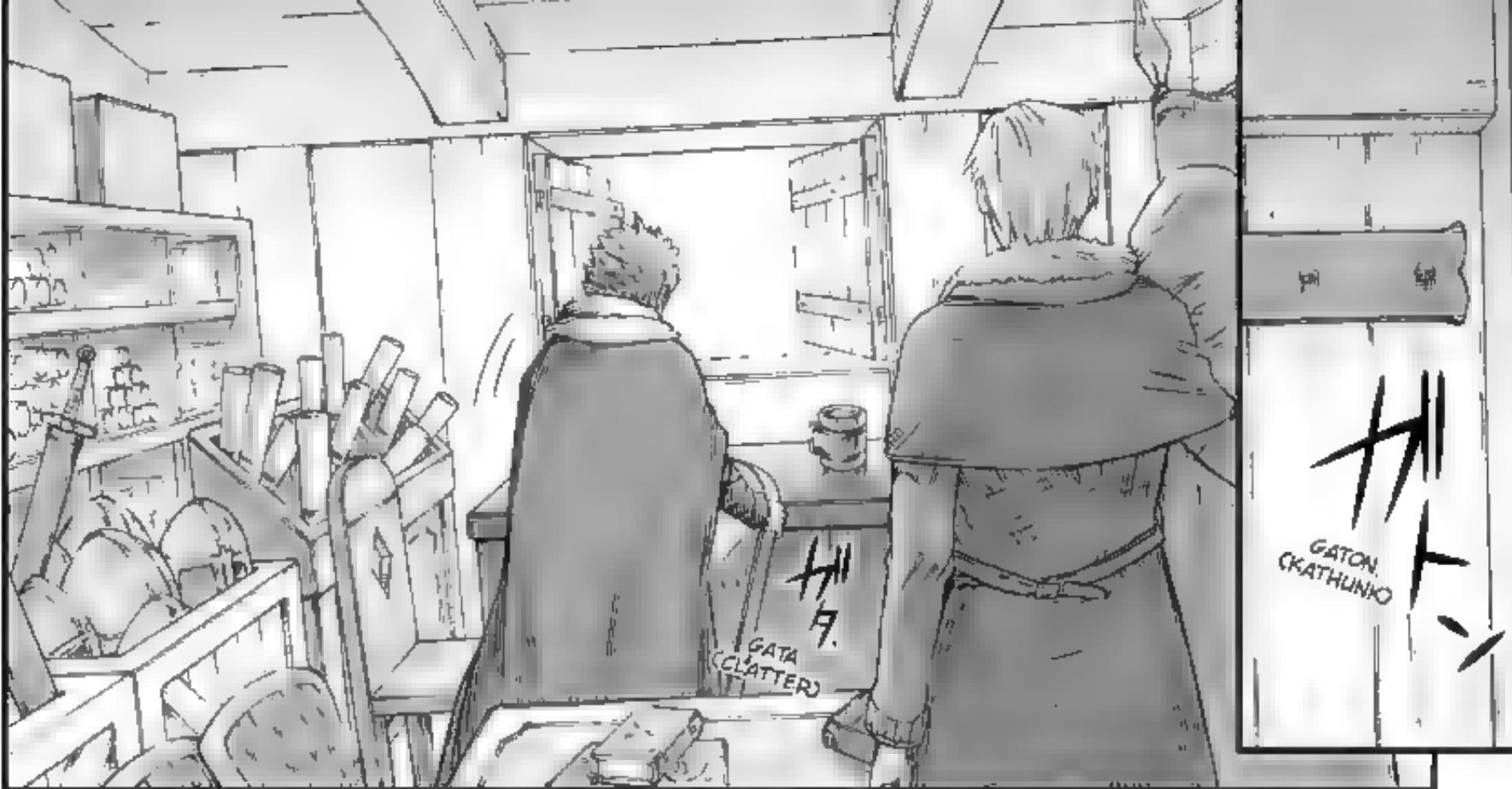
HOLO?

I SEE... HOLO IS HERE BEFORE LUWARD, BUT NOTHING.....









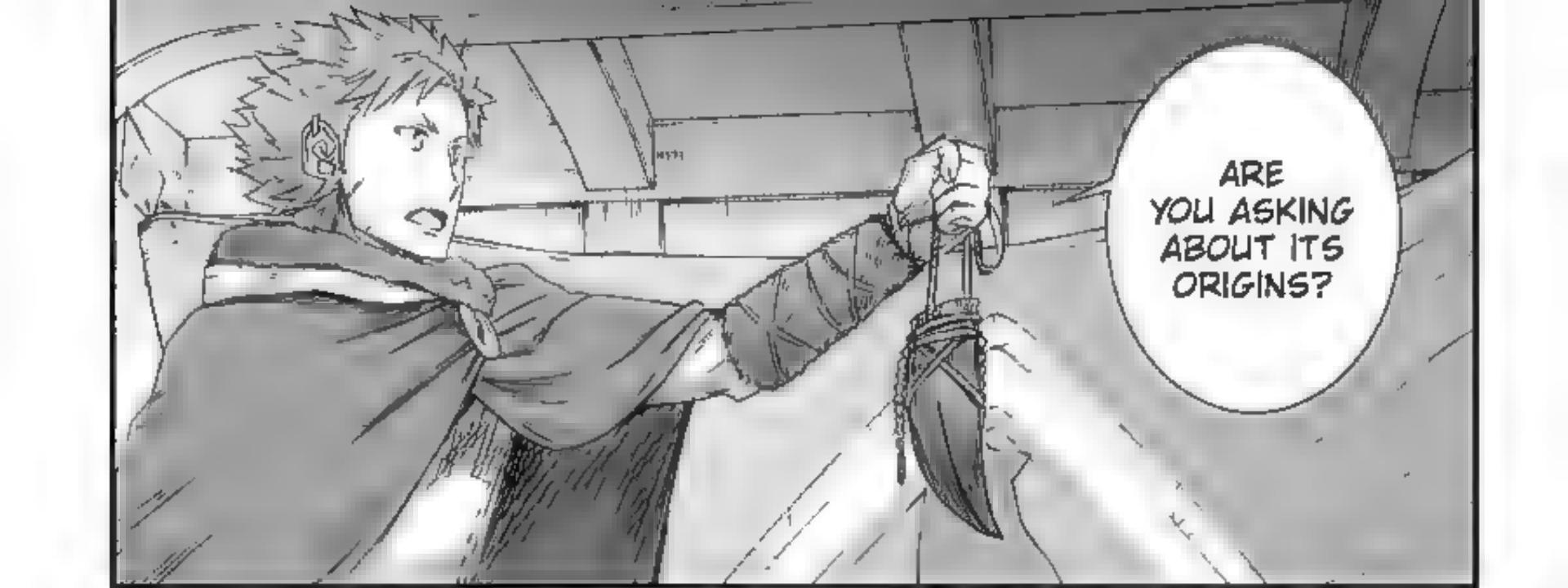


THE
SCENT.

WE'RE—

...WHO IN
THE WORLD
ARE YOU?

WHERE
DID YOU
GET
THIS?



ARE
YOU ASKING
ABOUT ITS
ORIGINS?



WHY?
WHAT'S
YOUR
AIM?

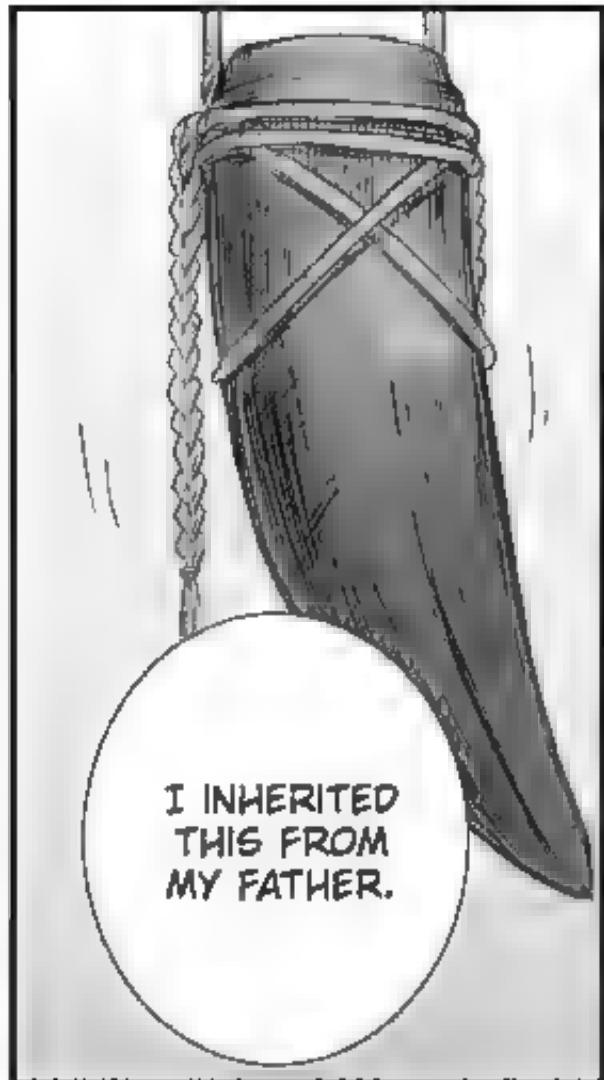


ANSWER
ME.

BYU
(WHOOSH)

THAT'S
MY LINE.





I INHERITED
THIS FROM
MY FATHER.



HFF...

I DID
NOT SEIZE
THIS BY
FORCE.

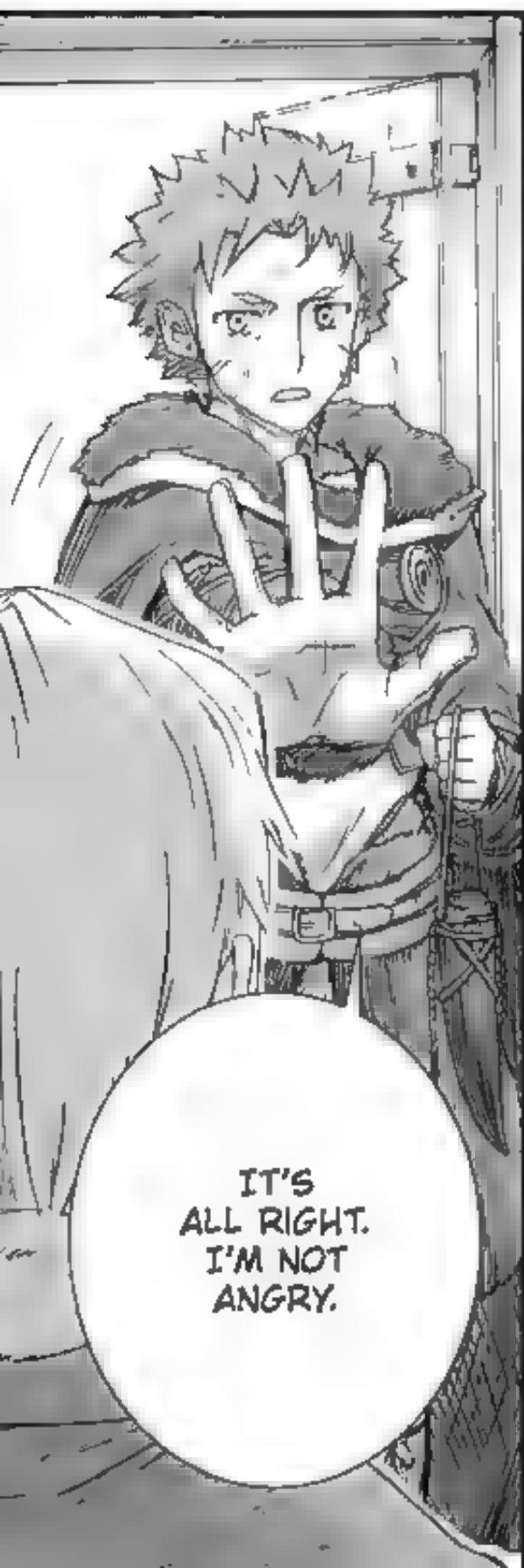
IT SEEMS
THERE'S
BEEN A
MISUNDER-
STANDING.

GACHIN
(KASHING)

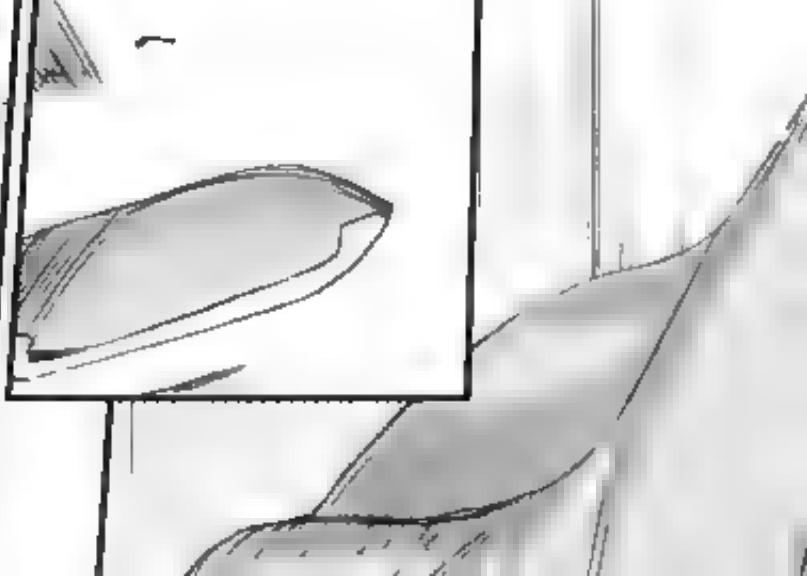
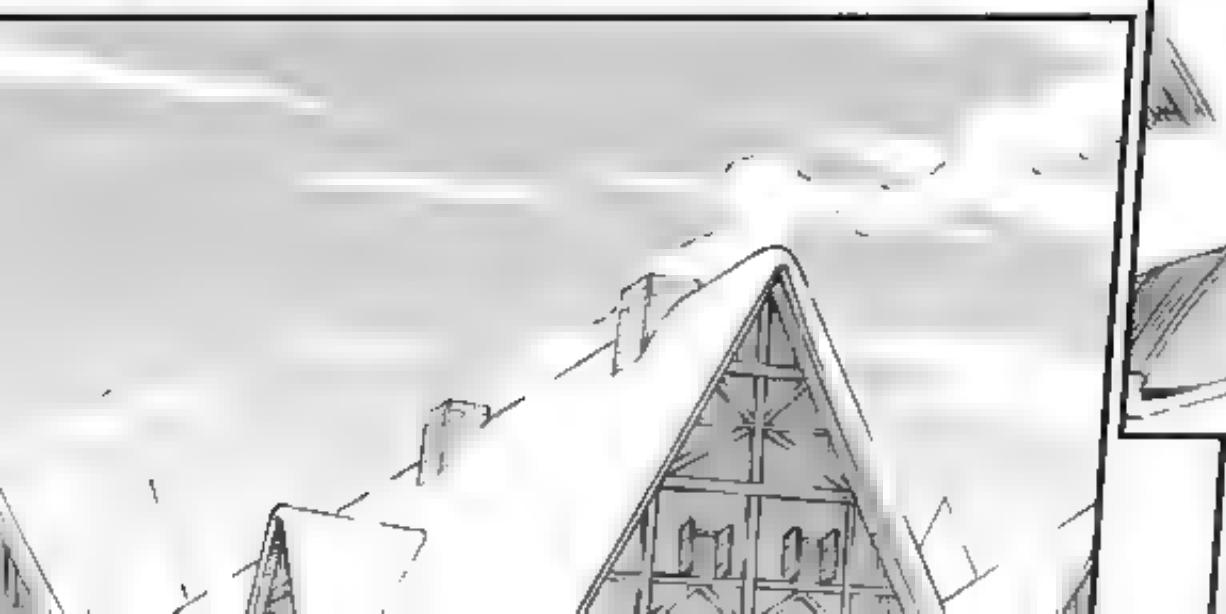
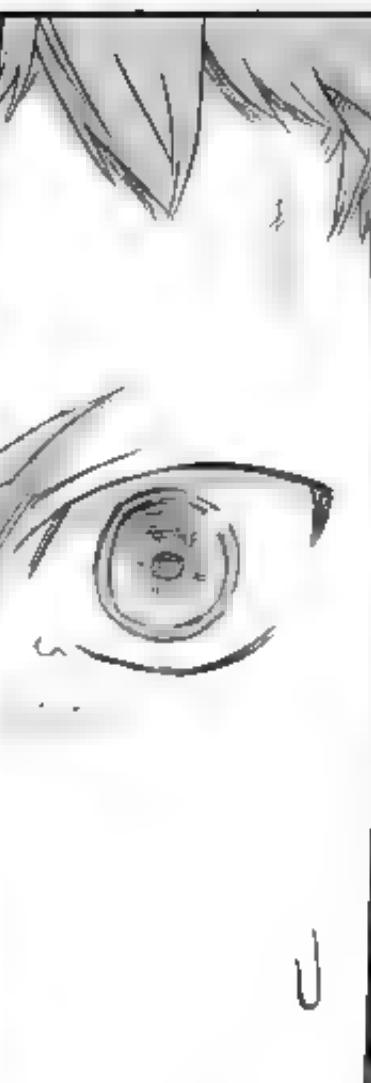


AND
MY FATHER
INHERITED IT
FROM HIS
FATHER.











WOW...

THE FIRST
CAPTAIN RECEIVED
THIS WHEN THE
MERCENARY
COMPANY WAS
FOUNDED.

THAT I AM
TO GIVE THIS
TO HOLO THE
WISEWOLF
WHEN I
MEET HER.

DO
(PAT)

H

ZURL
(SLIP)

H





IT SAYS...
"IT'S BEEN
A WHILE."

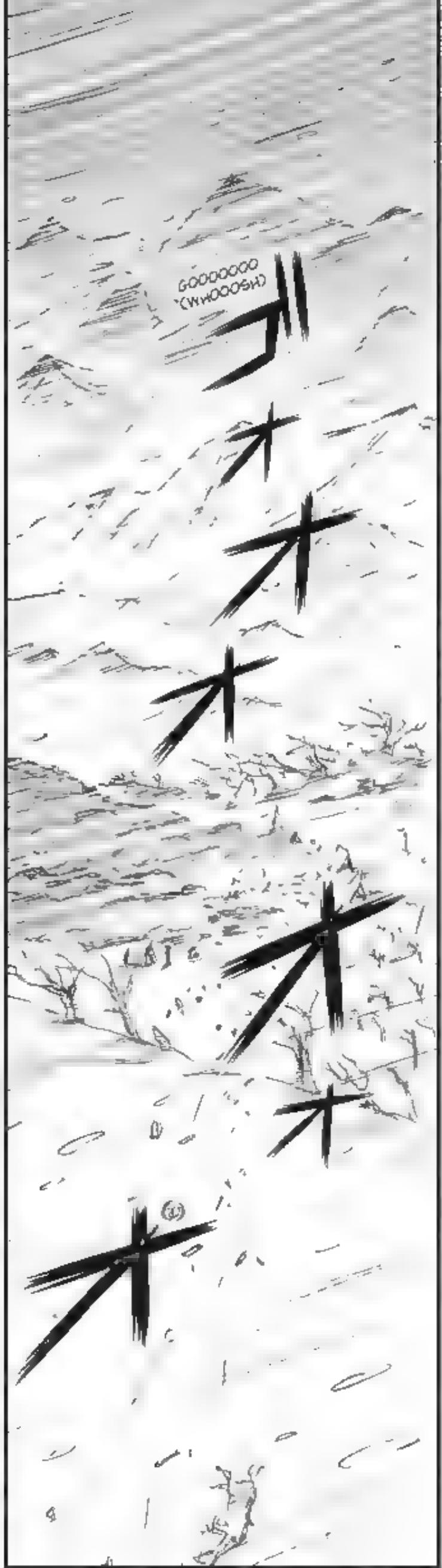
THAT
FOOL!

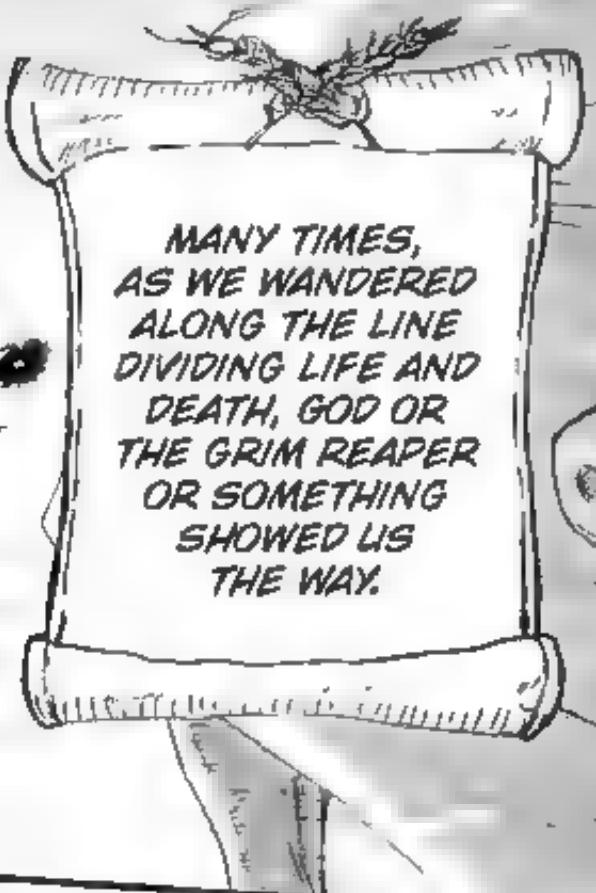
GUSH!
(SNIFF)

KU
LAUGHED.

GUSH!
(SNIFFLE)





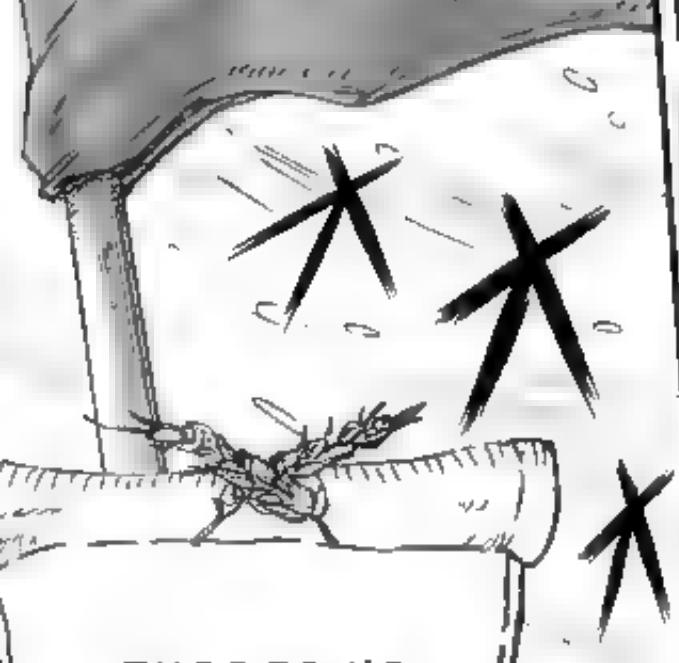


MANY TIMES,
AS WE WANDERED
ALONG THE LINE
DIVIDING LIFE AND
DEATH, GOD OR
THE GRIM REAPER
OR SOMETHING
SHOWED US
THE WAY.



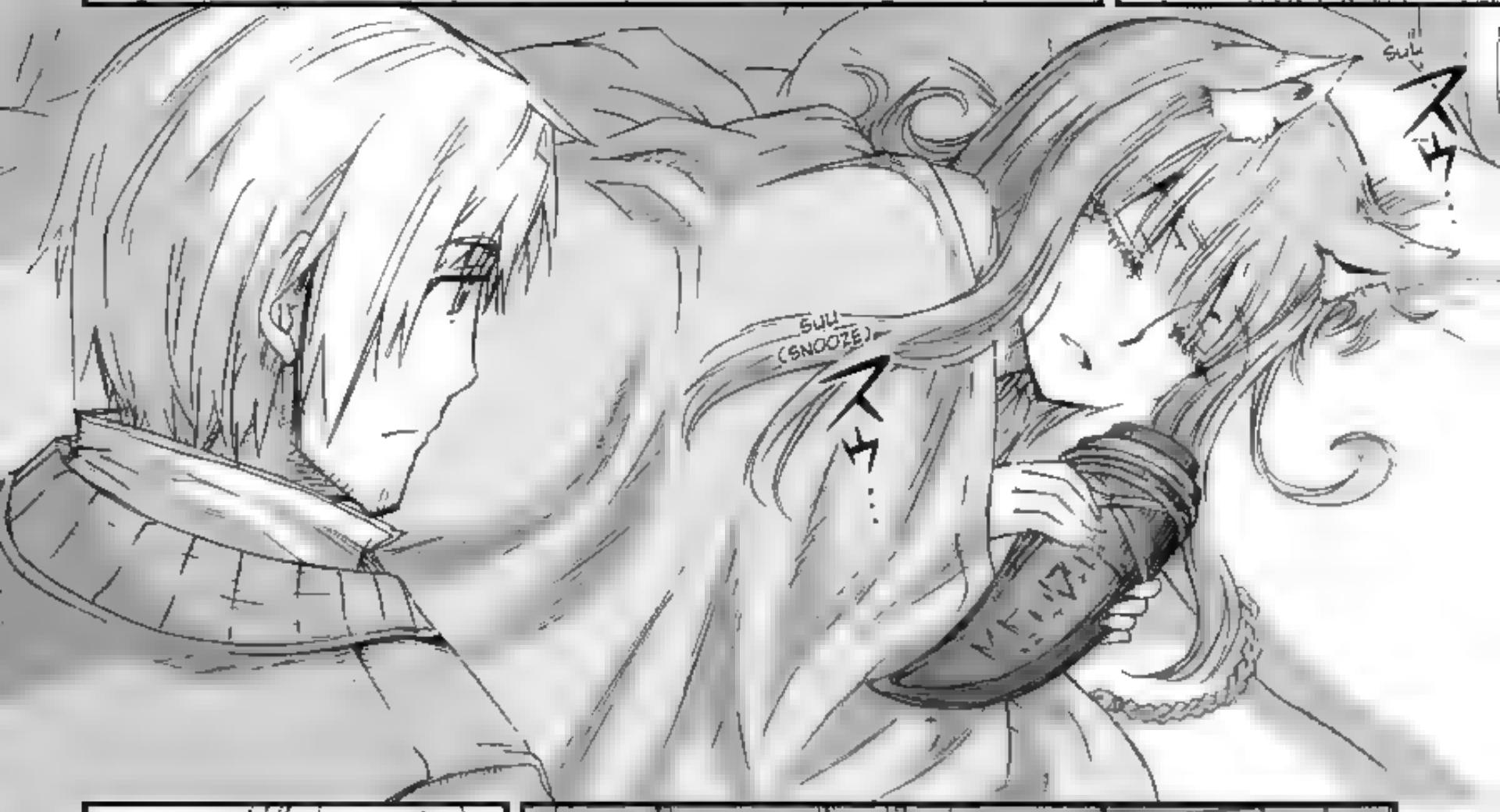
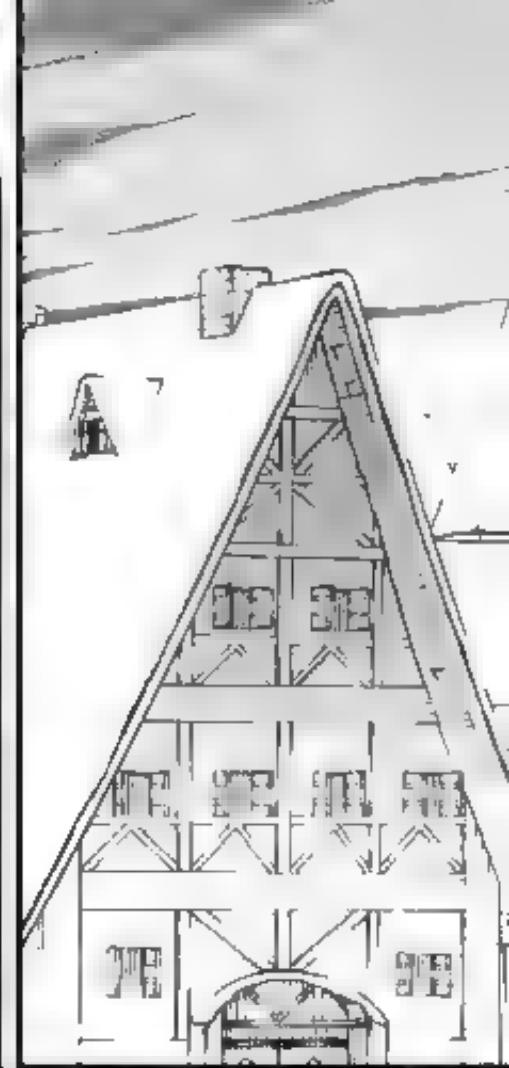
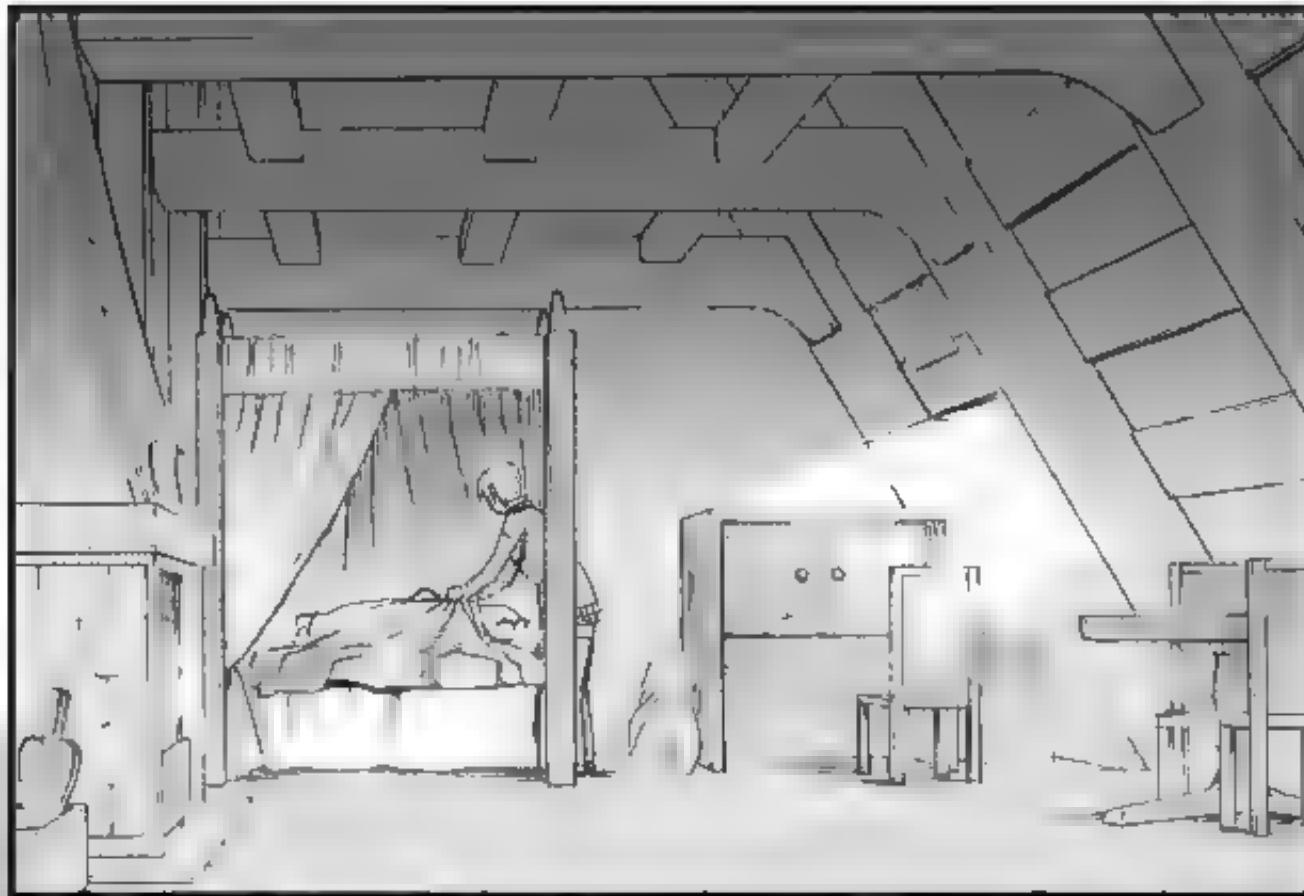
WE REALIZED
THAT EVEN
FOR A BAND OF
MERCENARIES,
WE HAD A
GREAT MANY
OF THESE
STORIES.

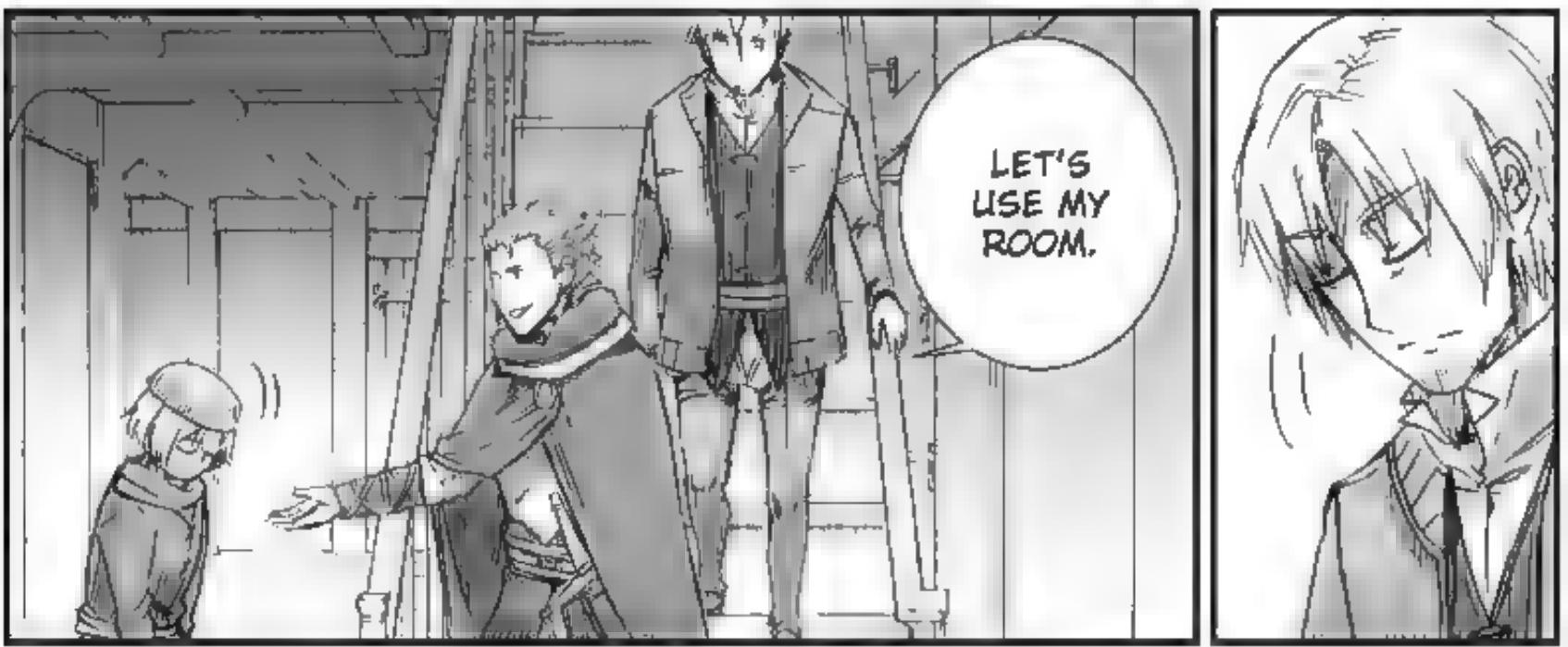




BUT I DON'T
THINK IT WAS
GOD REACHING
OUT TO US—
I THINK IT WAS
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.







IT'S
ALL RIGHT,
THERE'S NO
NEED TO BE
NERVOUS.

I'M...
STILL
SHAKING
TOO.

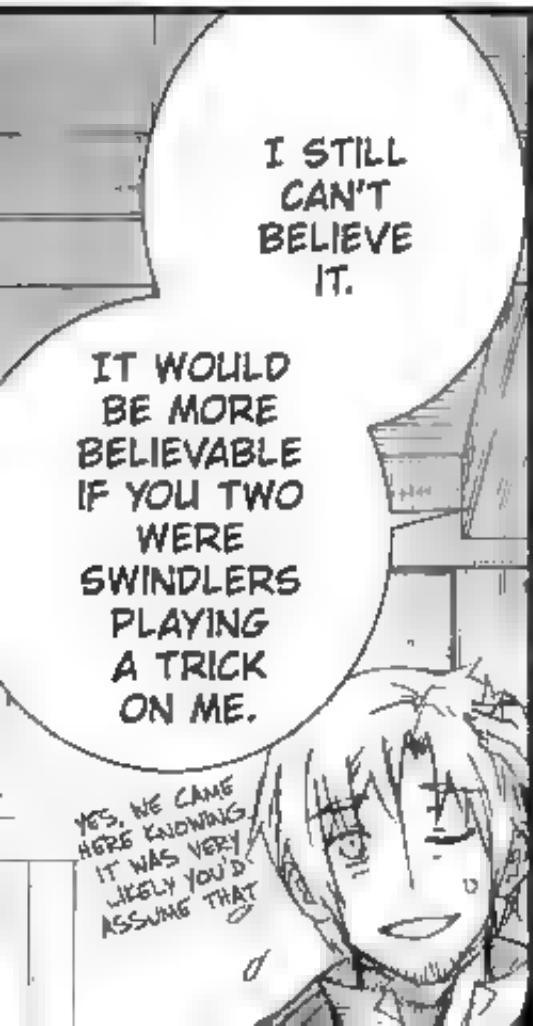
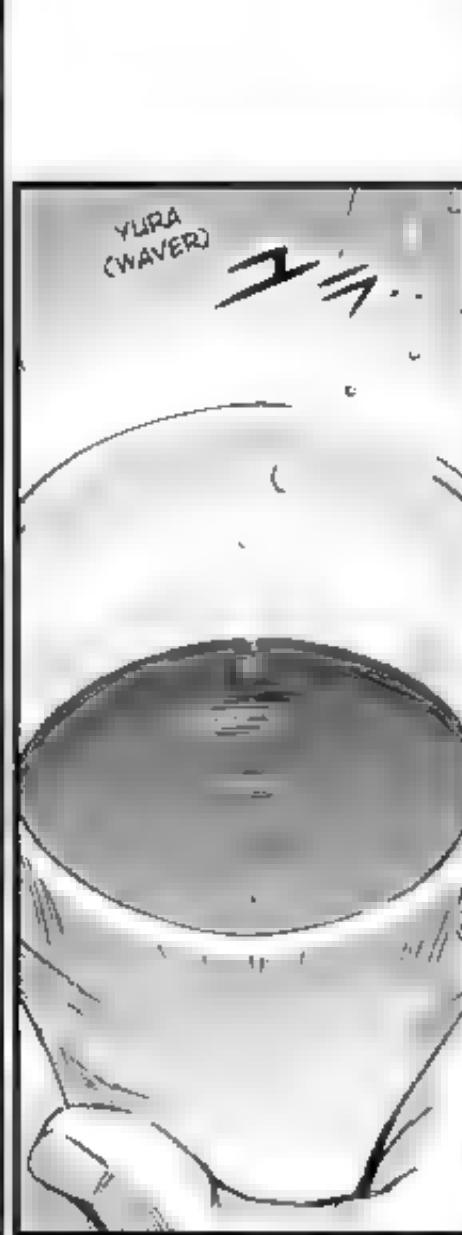
KRAFT
LAWRENCE.
A FINE NAME.
FROM THE
POLAN
REGION?

LAWRENCE.
KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

I DIDN'T
CATCH YOUR
NAME.









"LEGENDS"
ABOUT HOLO,
YOU MEAN?

.....IS IT
REALLY ALL
RIGHT TO
JUST CALL
HER BY NAME
LIKE THAT?

BEING
CALLED A
GOD AND
WORSHIPPED AS
SUCH DOESN'T
REALLY AGREE
WITH HER.

BUT I SAW
HER EARS AND
TAIL WITH MY
OWN EYES.

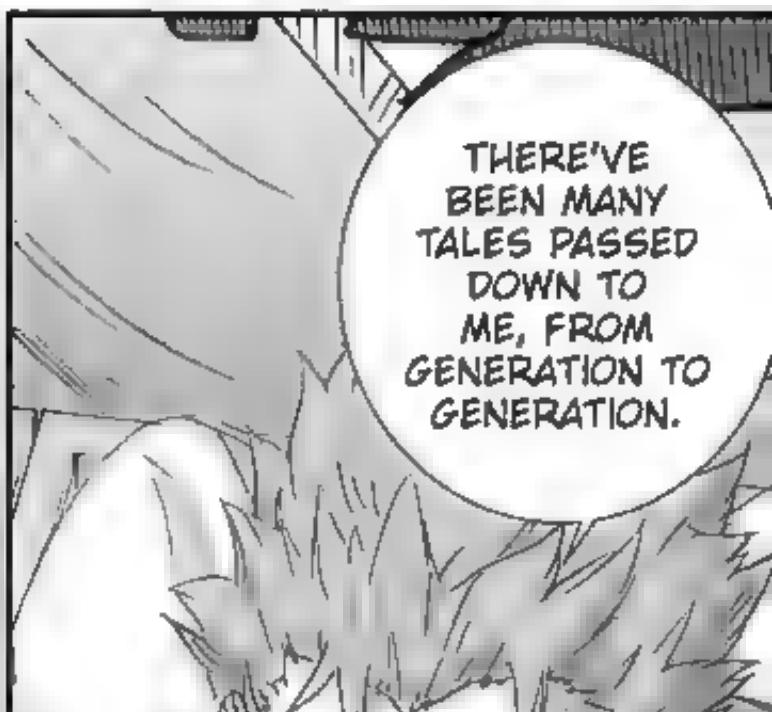
SHE'S
EXACTLY LIKE
THE LEGENDS
PASSED DOWN
FROM CAPTAIN
TO CAPTAIN.



BECAUSE OF THAT, OUR PELTS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE FOX OR MINK OR DEER, EVEN THOUGH IT GETS EXPENSIVE.

...SO IT DEMANDED WE PAY OUR RESPECTS.

BUT THE WOLF ENDED UP HELPING US OUT MUCH MORE...



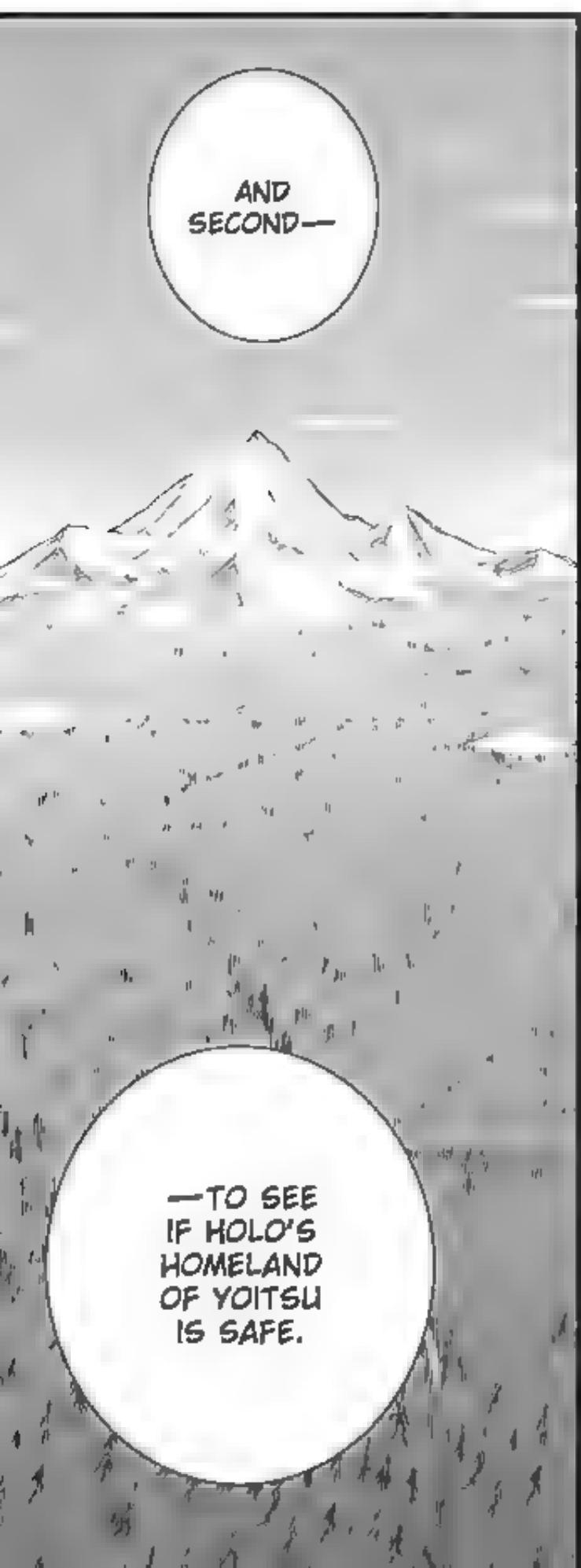
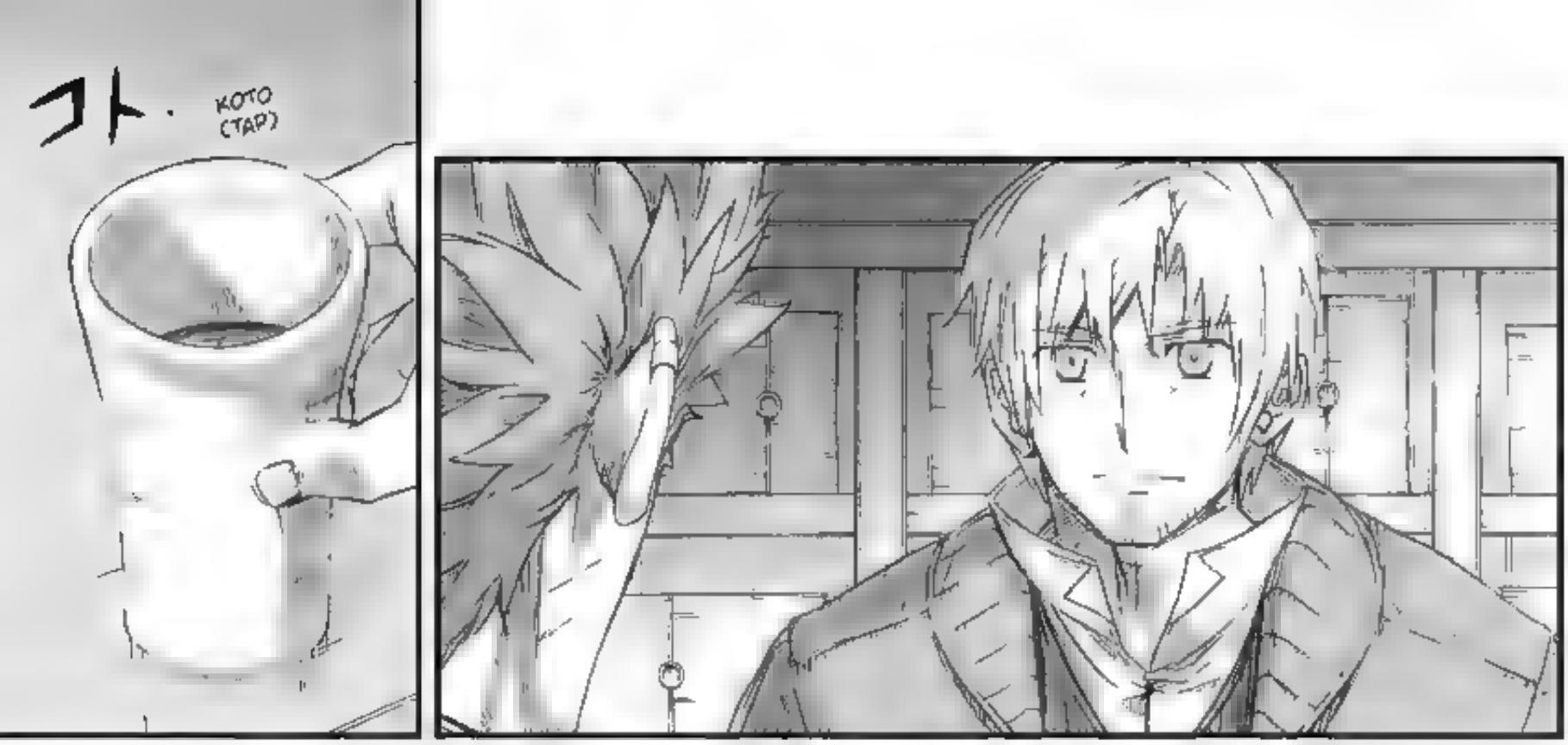


...THAT'S ALSO WHY THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

BUT...

WHY DID YOU REALLY COME TO SEE ME?

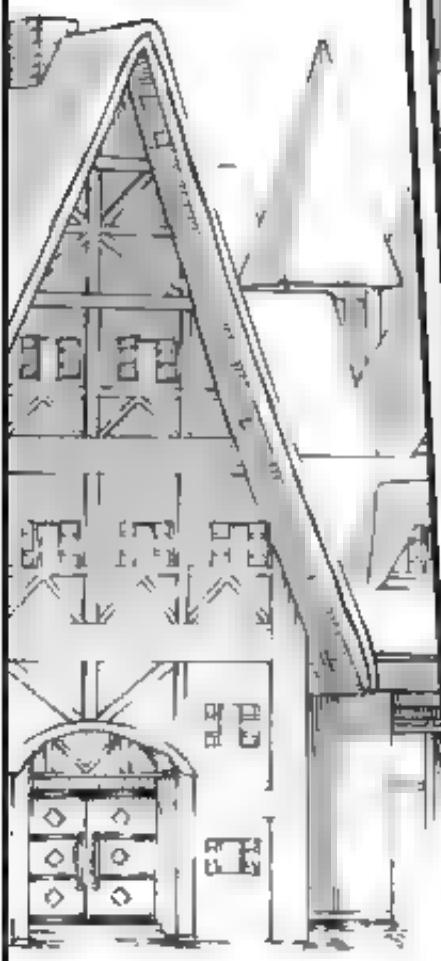
LET ME ASK YOU DIRECTLY.



—TO SEE
IF HOLO'S
HOMELAND
OF YOITSU
IS SAFE.



I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOITSU.





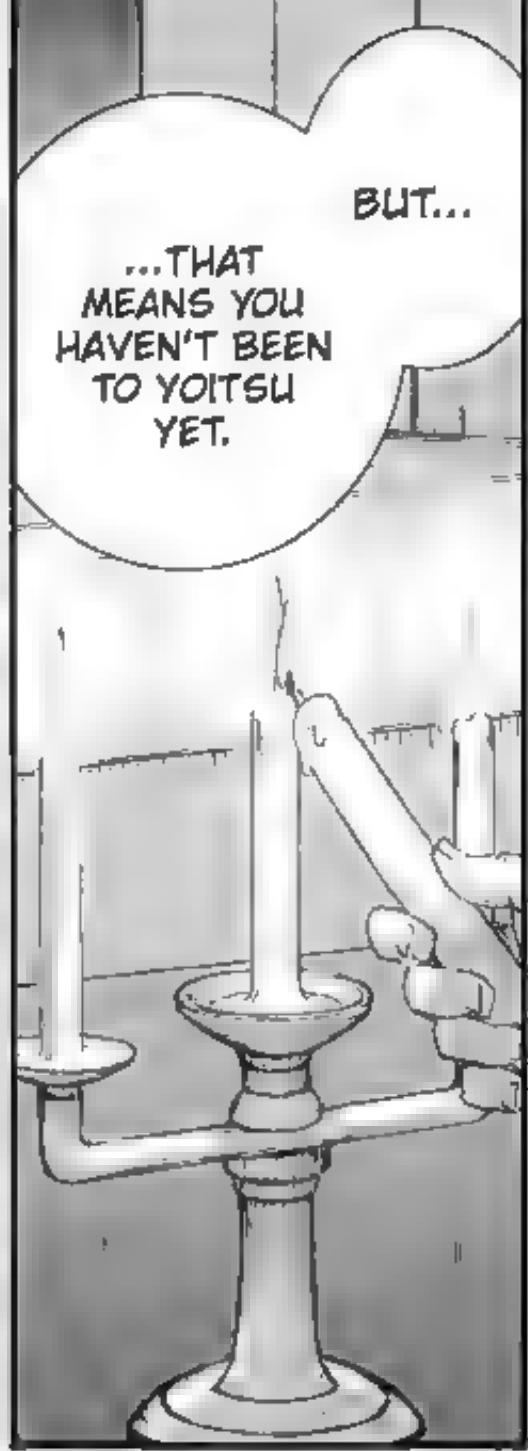
IT IS
SAID EVEN
MURMURS
AT A GREAT
DISTANCE DO
NOT ESCAPE
HOLO THE
WISEWOLF.

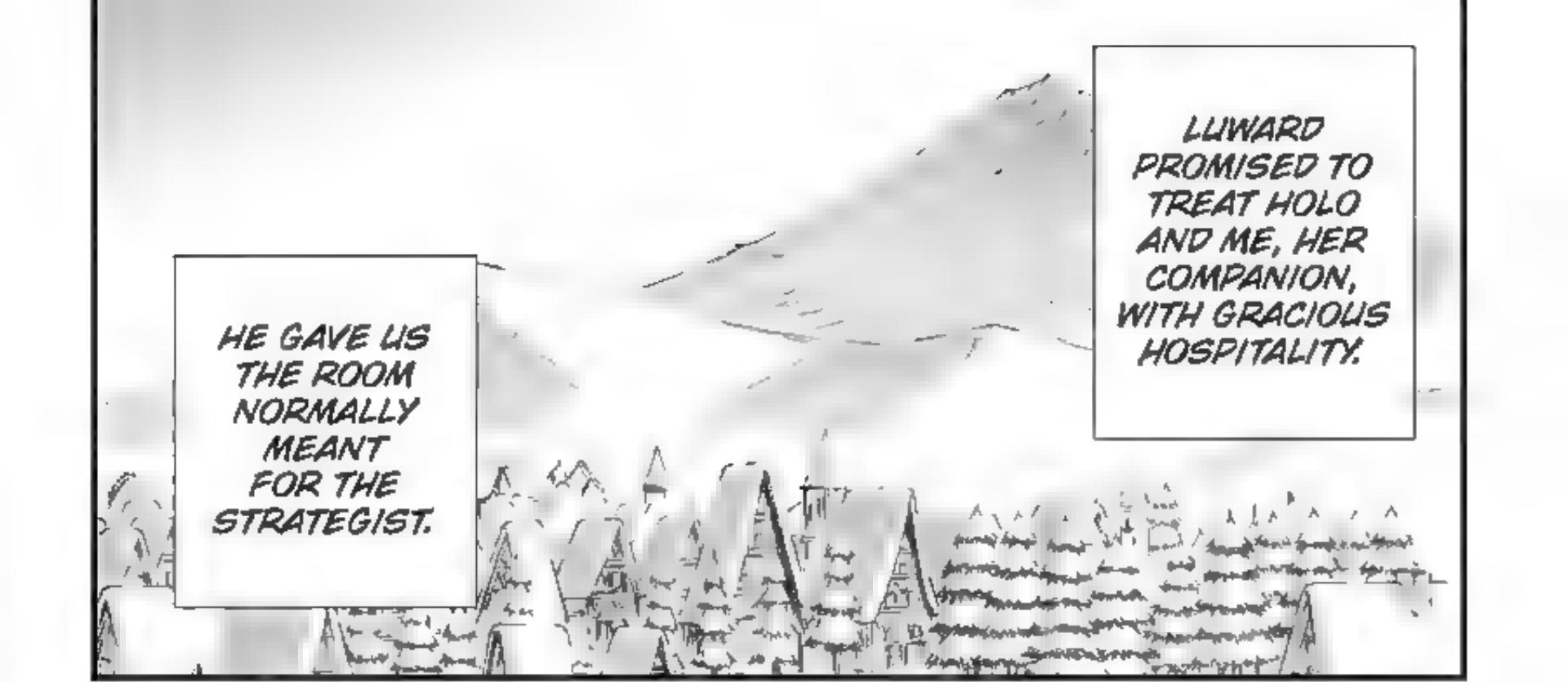
HISO
(WHISPER)

YOITSU
IS SAFE!

BARRING
THE WORST OF
CIRCUMSTANCES,
I THINK THAT'S
LARGELY
CORRECT.

HEH
HEH!





HE GAVE US
THE ROOM
NORMALLY
MEANT
FOR THE
STRATEGIST.

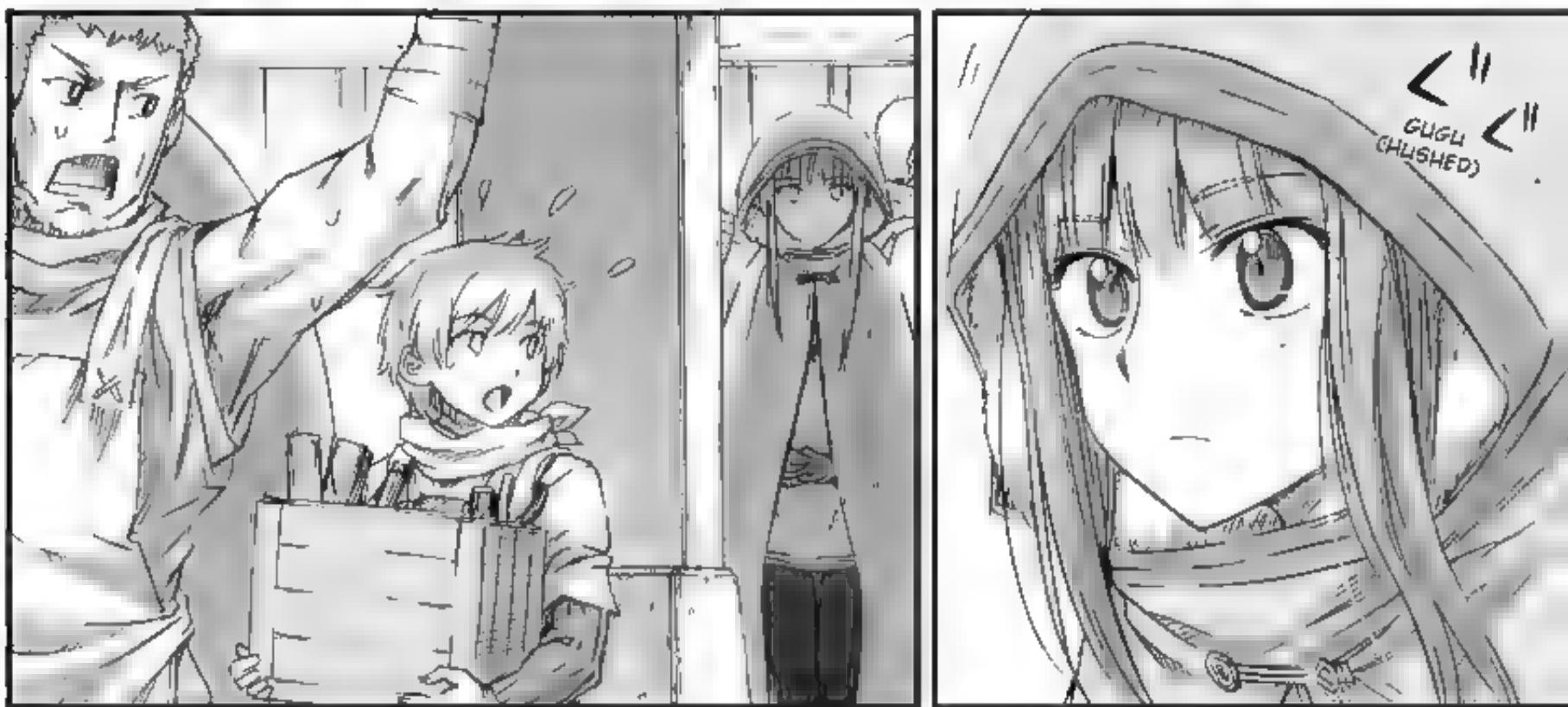
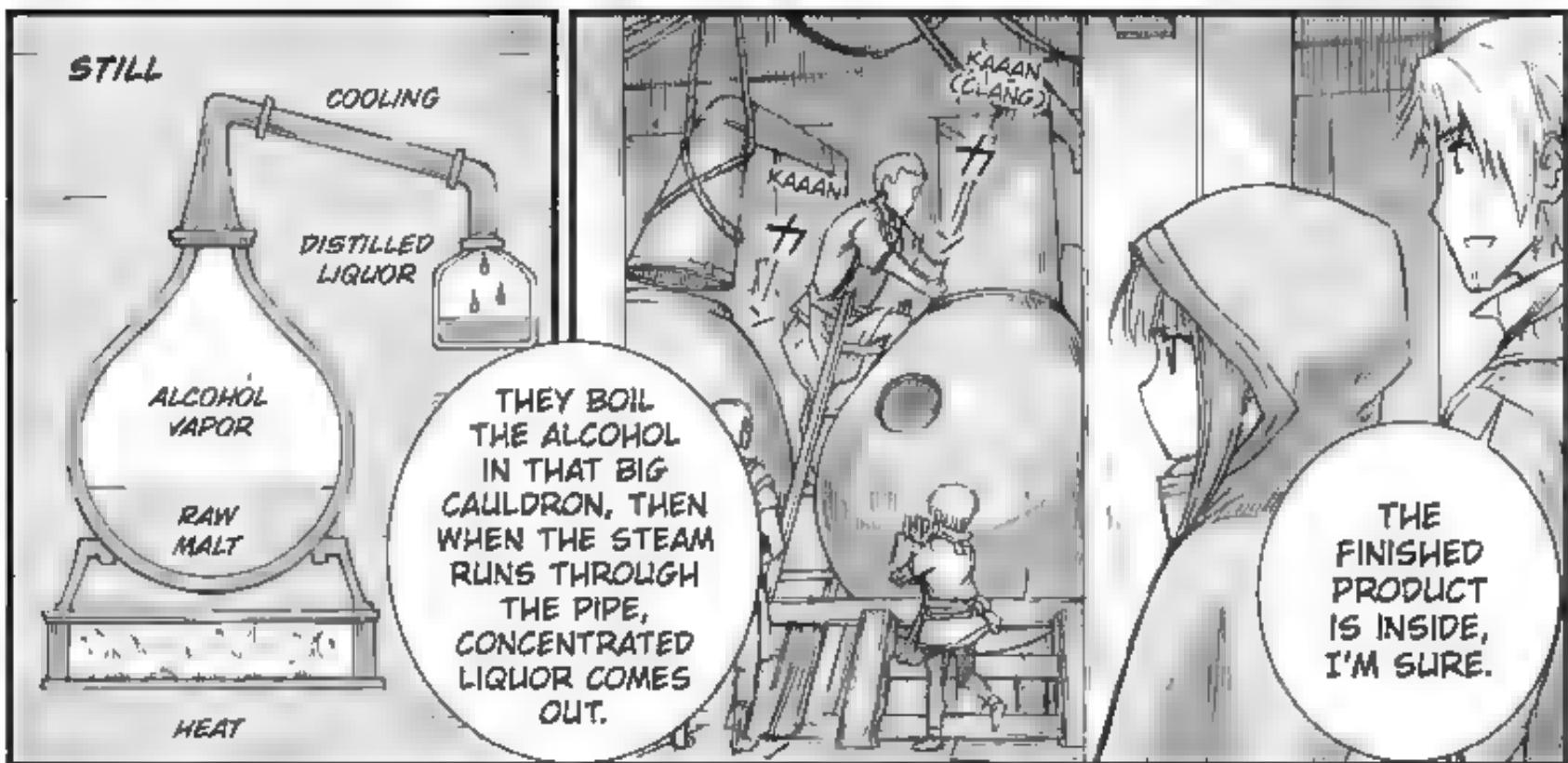
LUWARD
PROMISED TO
TREAT HOLO
AND ME, HER
COMPANION,
WITH GRACIOUS
HOSPITALITY.



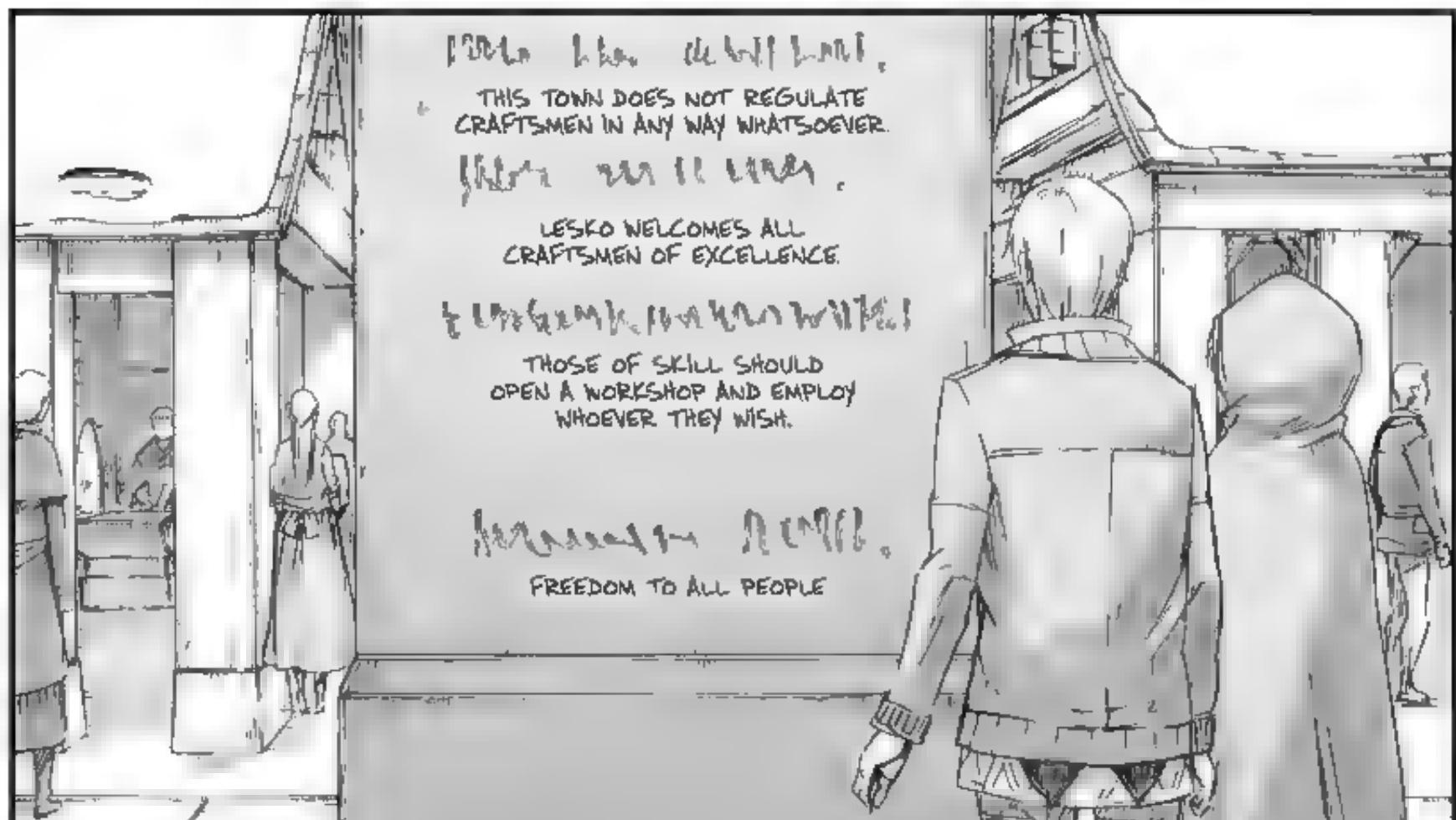
HE THEN
URGED US TO
STAY AS LONG
AS WE LIKED,
UNTIL THE
WEARINESS
FROM OUR
LONG JOURNEY
PASSED.

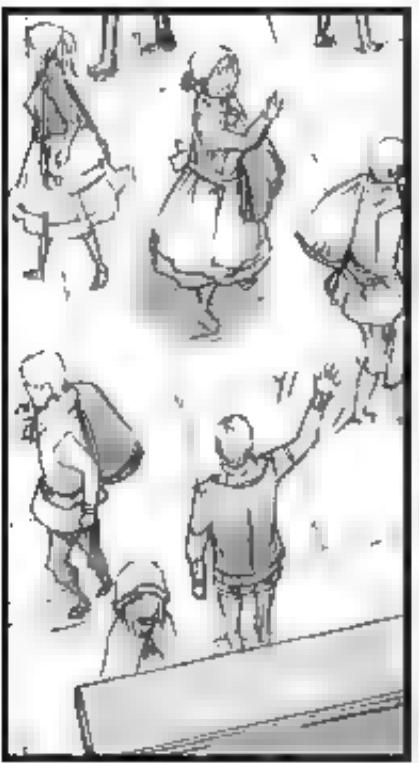
LET'S
GO TO THE
MARKET.

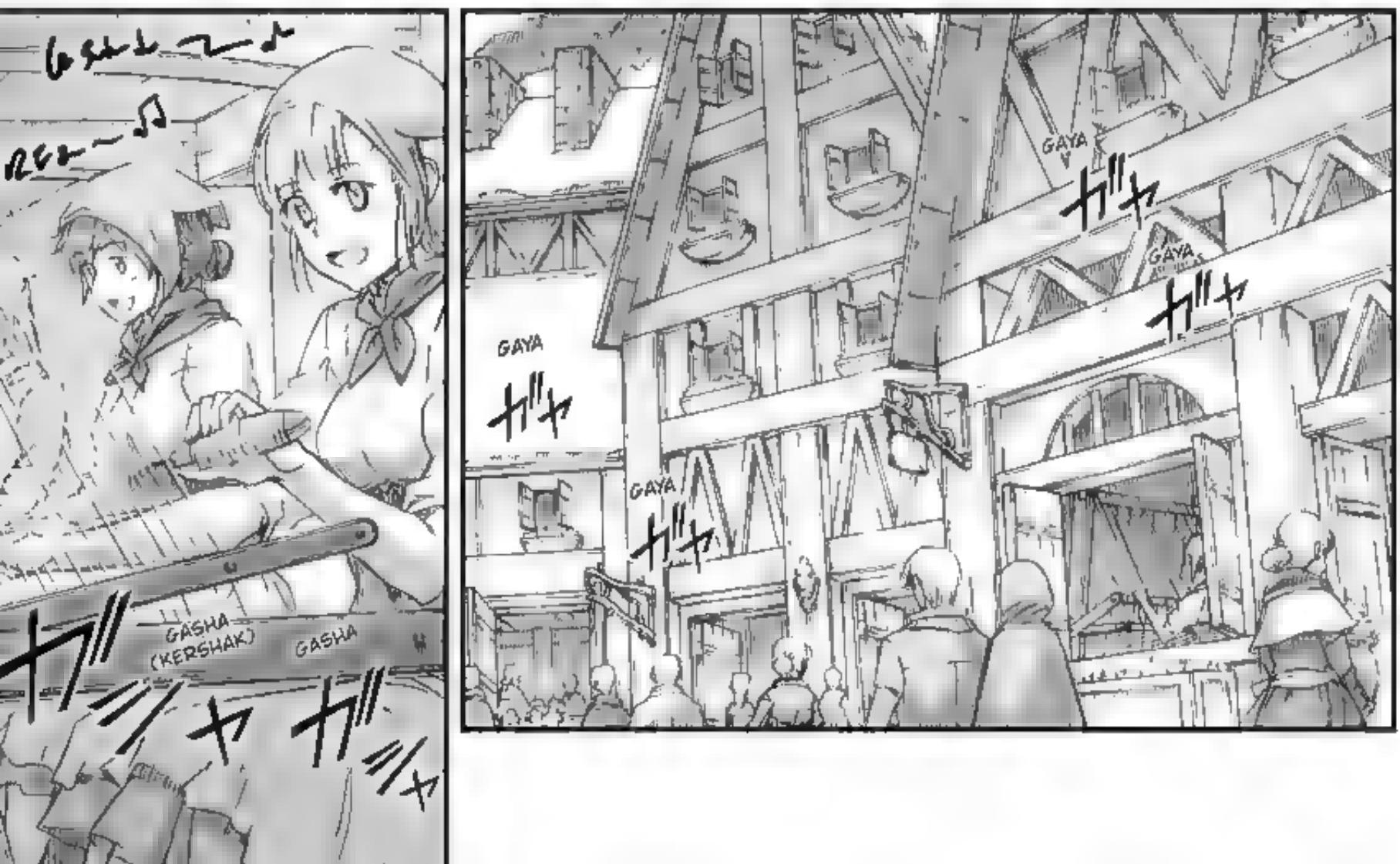




THIS MIGHT
BE A MIGRANT
TOWN. IT'S
VERY LIVELY.









BUT HOLO'S
"EVERYONE"
HAD VANISHED
WITH THE FLOW
OF TIME.



HERE
EVERYONE
WAS DOING THE
SAME WORK,
SINGING THE
SAME SONGS,
LIVING IN THE
SAME TOWN.



THOUGH SHE
HAD FOUND
ONE SLENDER
THREAD,
IT WAS BUT
A LITERAL
FRAGMENT
FROM THE
PAST.



NO DOUBT
THIS WAS
THE FEELING
OF UNITY
THAT NORAH
LONGED FOR.



THEY'RE
SELLING
SOME THINGS
HERE. WANT
TO TAKE A
LOOK?







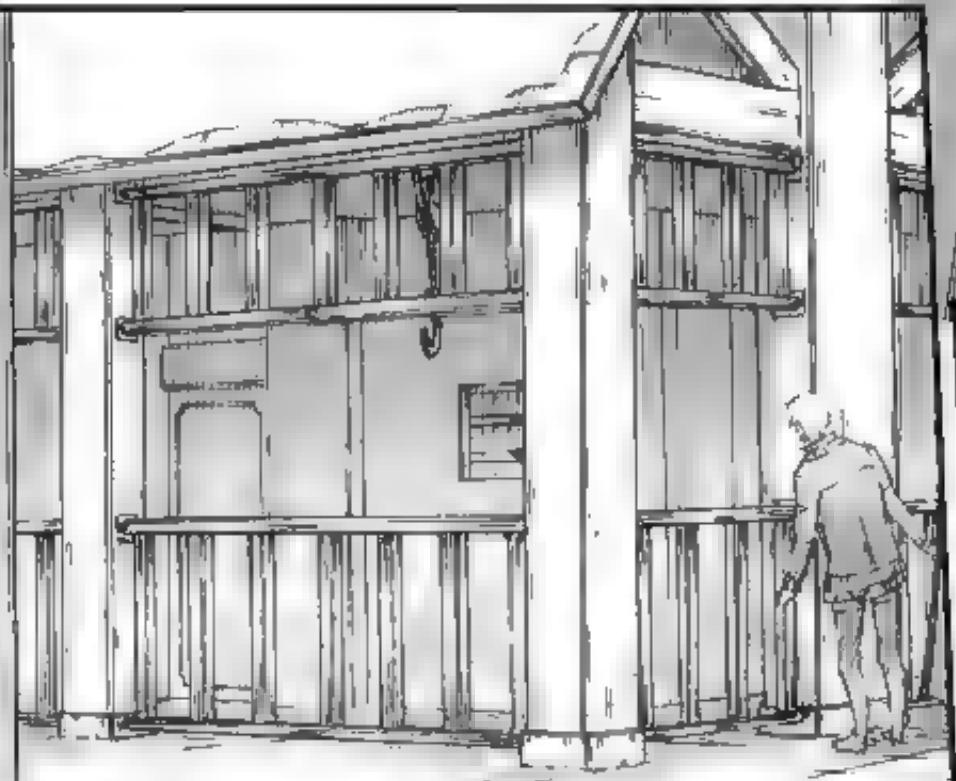
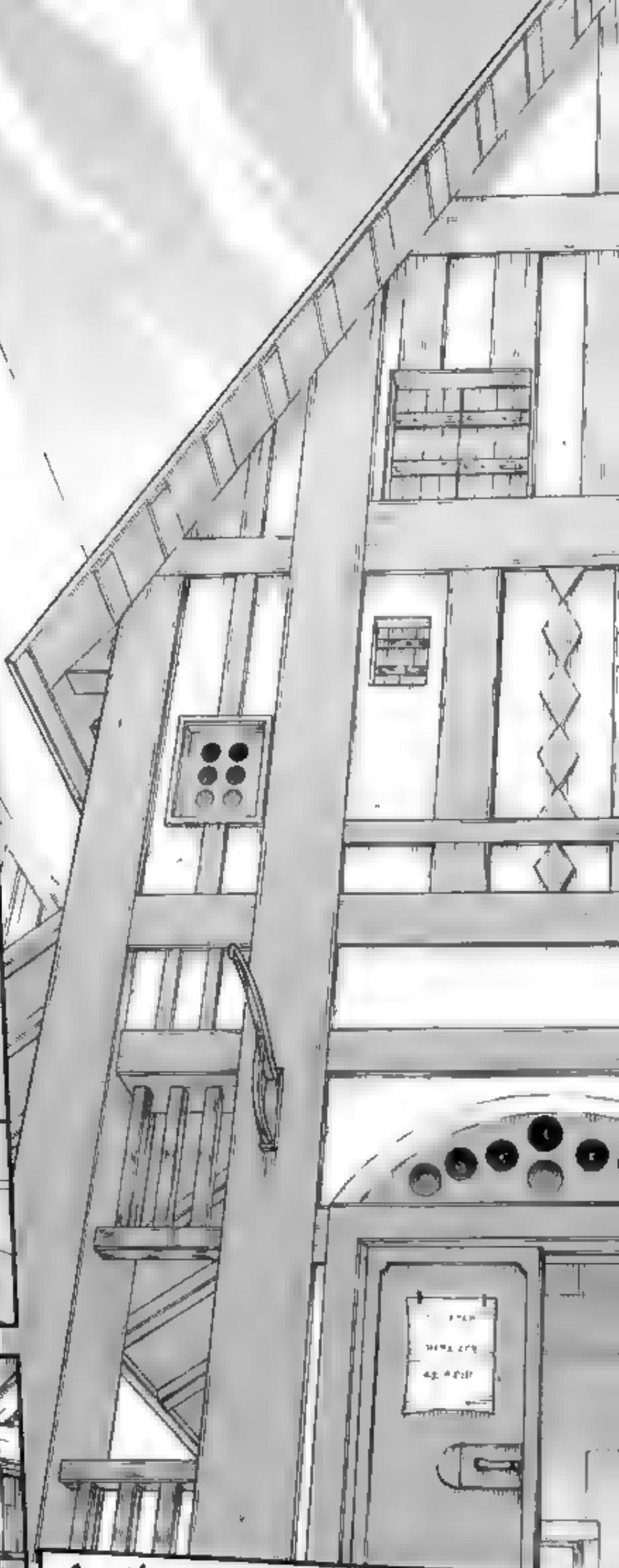
FULL MURKIN.

FOR SALE

WE RECOMMEND (WE RECOMMEND)

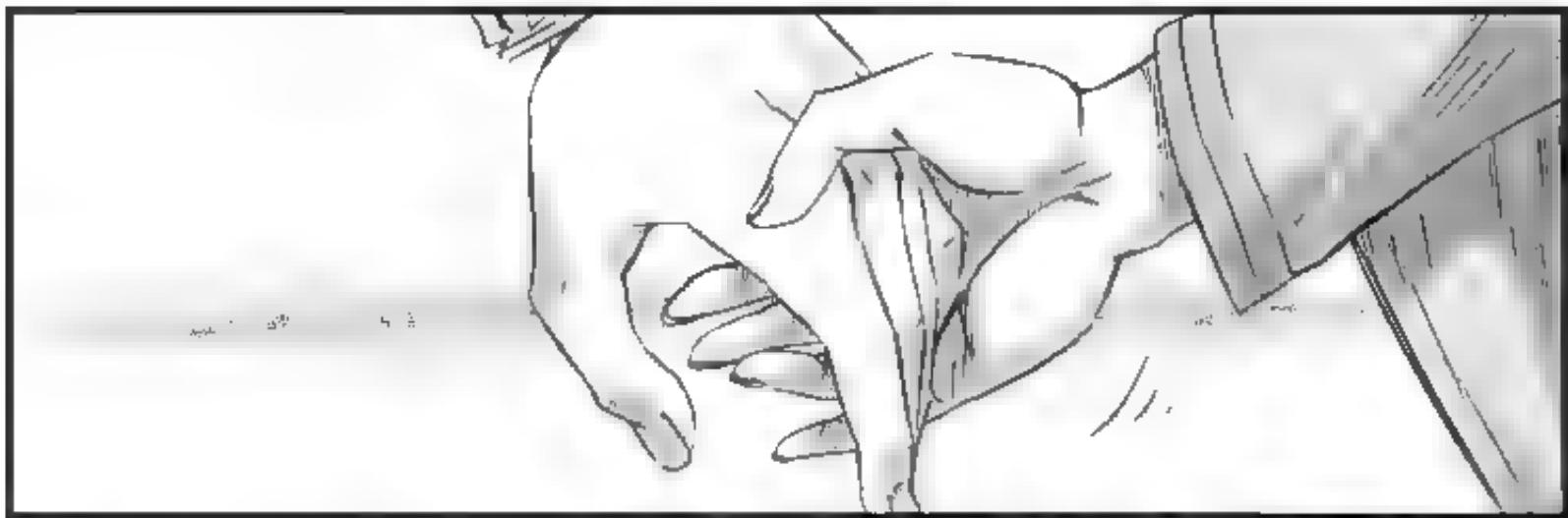
NEGOTIATIONS
STARTING AT
1,200 TRENNI
SILVER PIECES

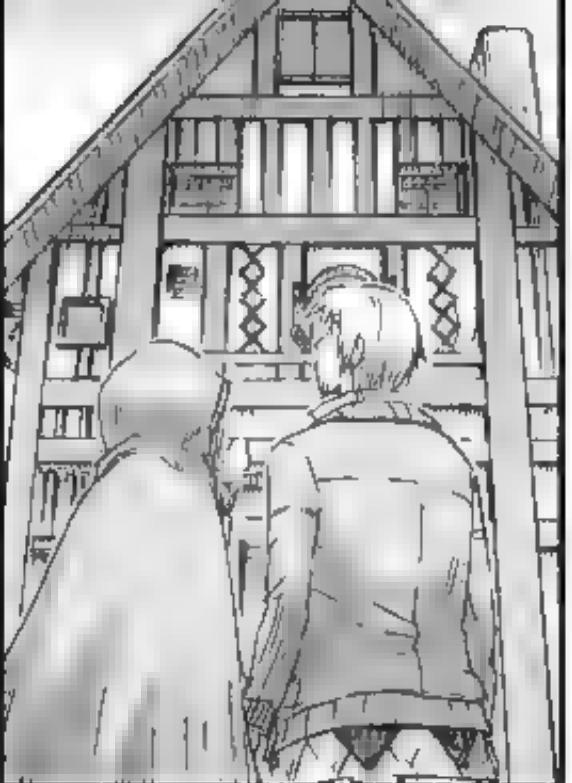
WE ARE THE
THE VRAINS COMPANY



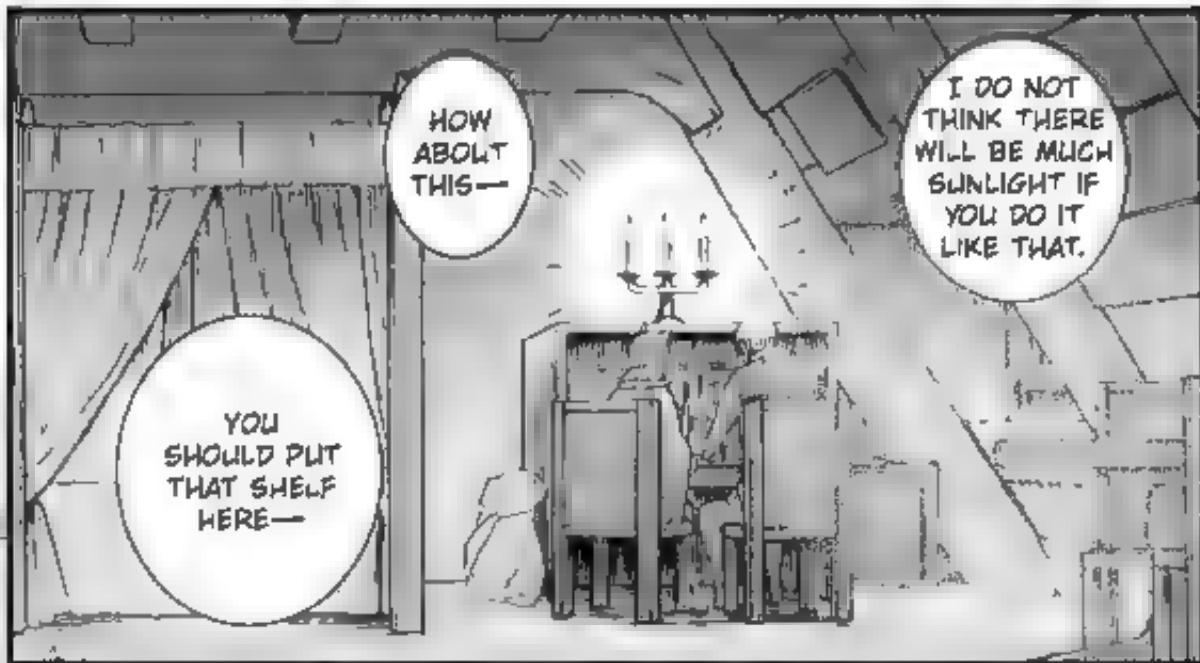


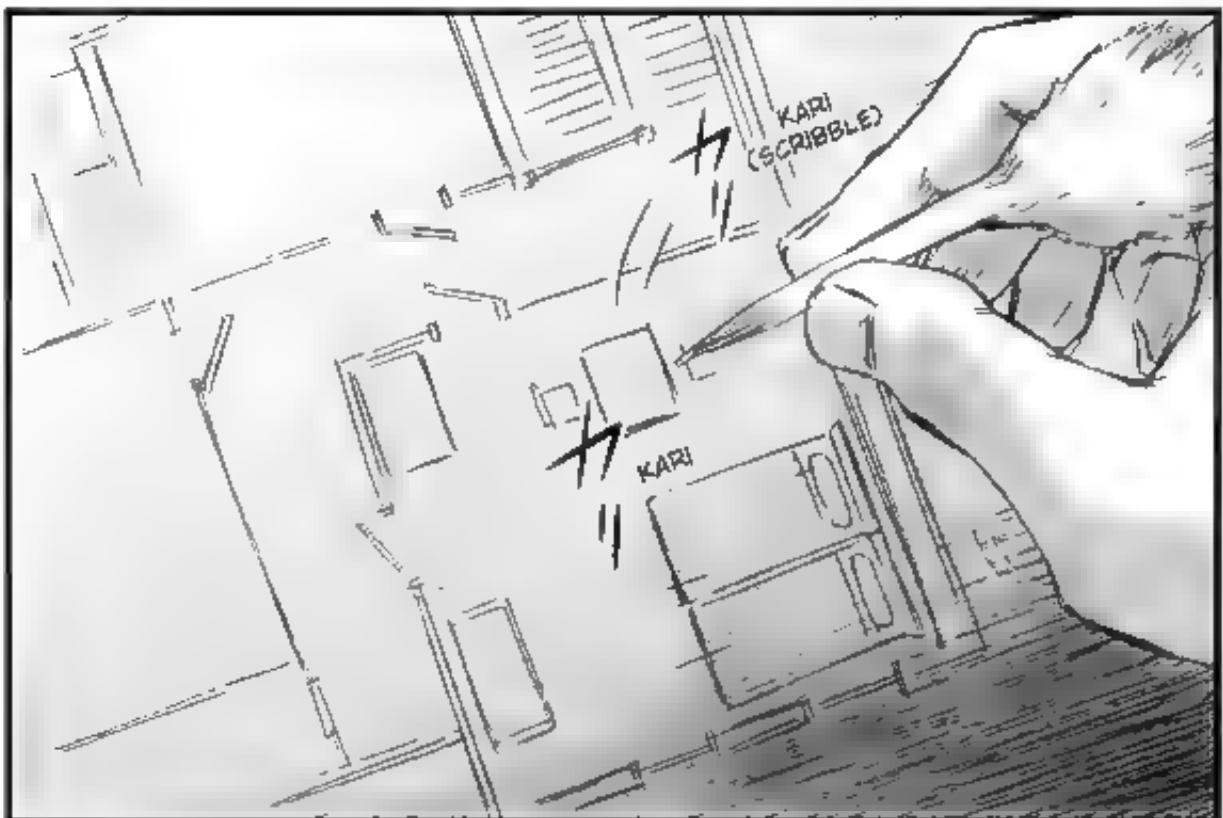












TWO'S BETTER THAN WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE COMPANY ALONE.

OH!

THE ROOM WILL LOOK SMALLER WHEN YOU PLACE THE SHELVES LIKE THAT.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FURNITURE.

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, IT'S STILL TOO BIG.

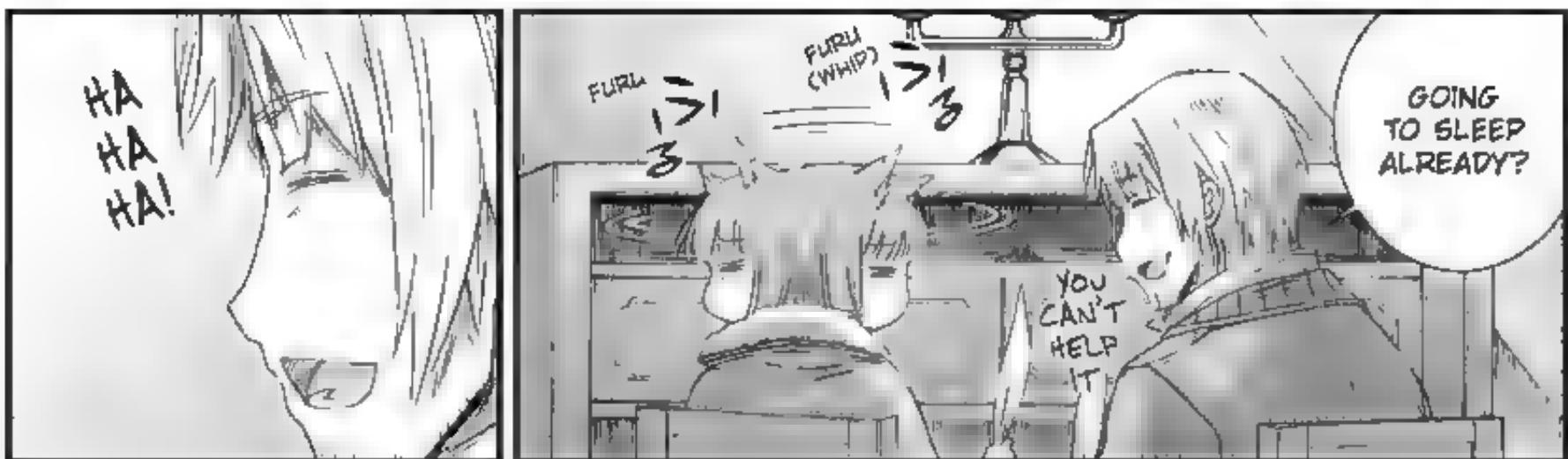
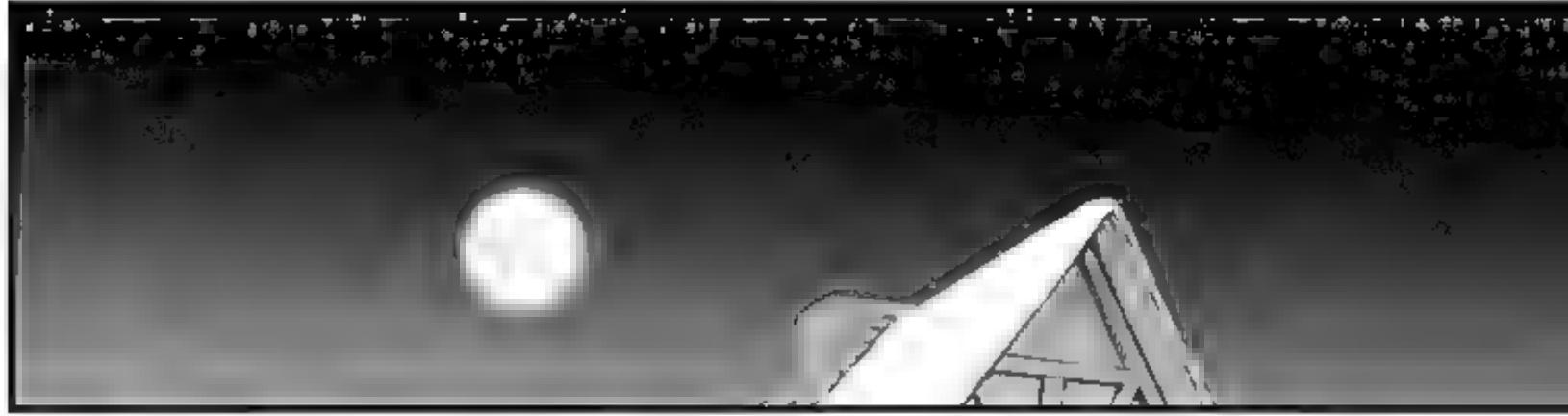
SHALL WE KEEP THE FOOD HERE?

HA HA HA...

KARI

KARI

KARI



NEEDLESS
TO SAY, SHE
SIMPLY BID
WHAT WAS
LIKELY AN
ETERNAL
FAREWELL...



...TO THE
COMPANION
SHE'D
THOUGHT
SHE WOULD
SURELY
HAVE MET
AGAIN.

TO HOLO,
WHO'S LIVED
FOR CENTURIES,
THE TIME SHE
SPENDS WITH ME
IS SO SHORT IT
SEEMS AS IF IT
MIGHT PASS IF
SHE DOZES OFF.



HOW
CONVINCING
WOULD IT BE IF
I TOLD HER I
WASN'T GOING
ANYWHERE?

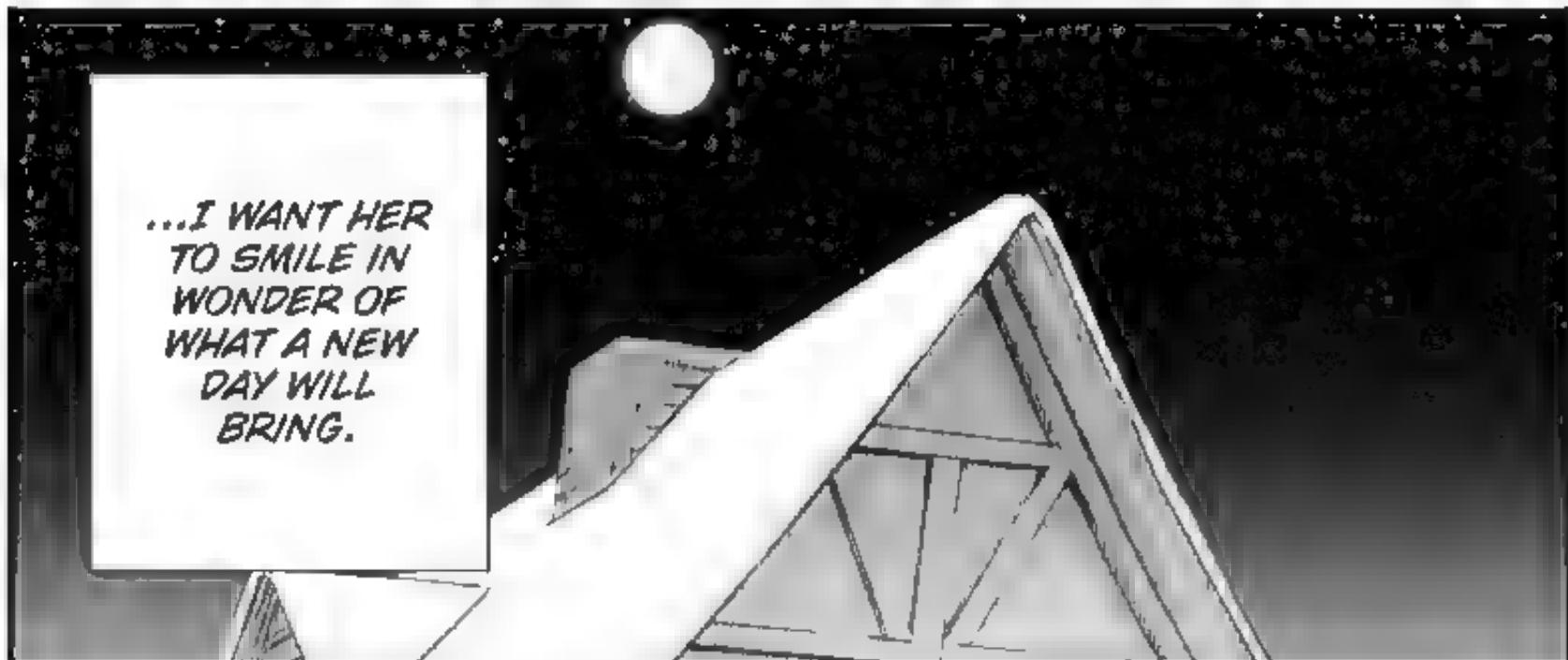




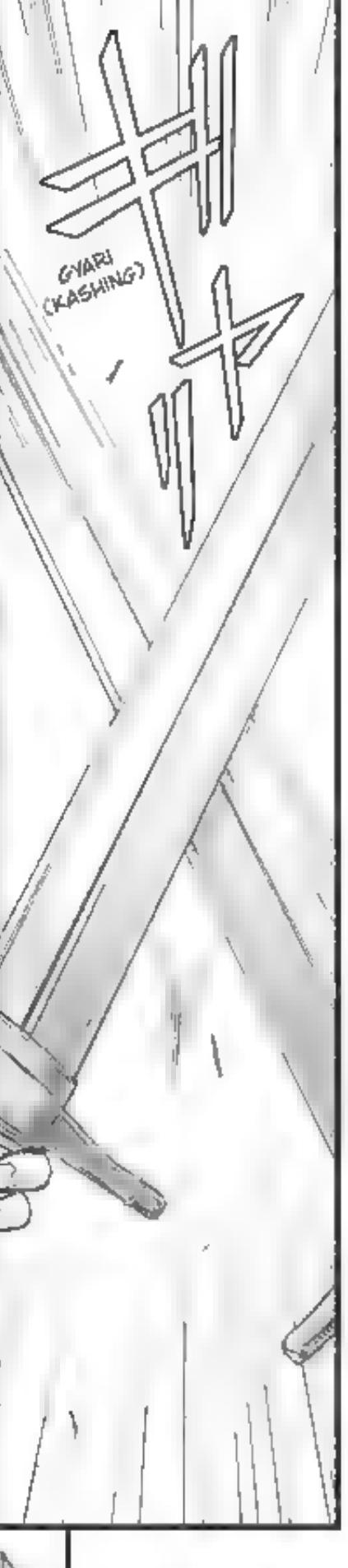
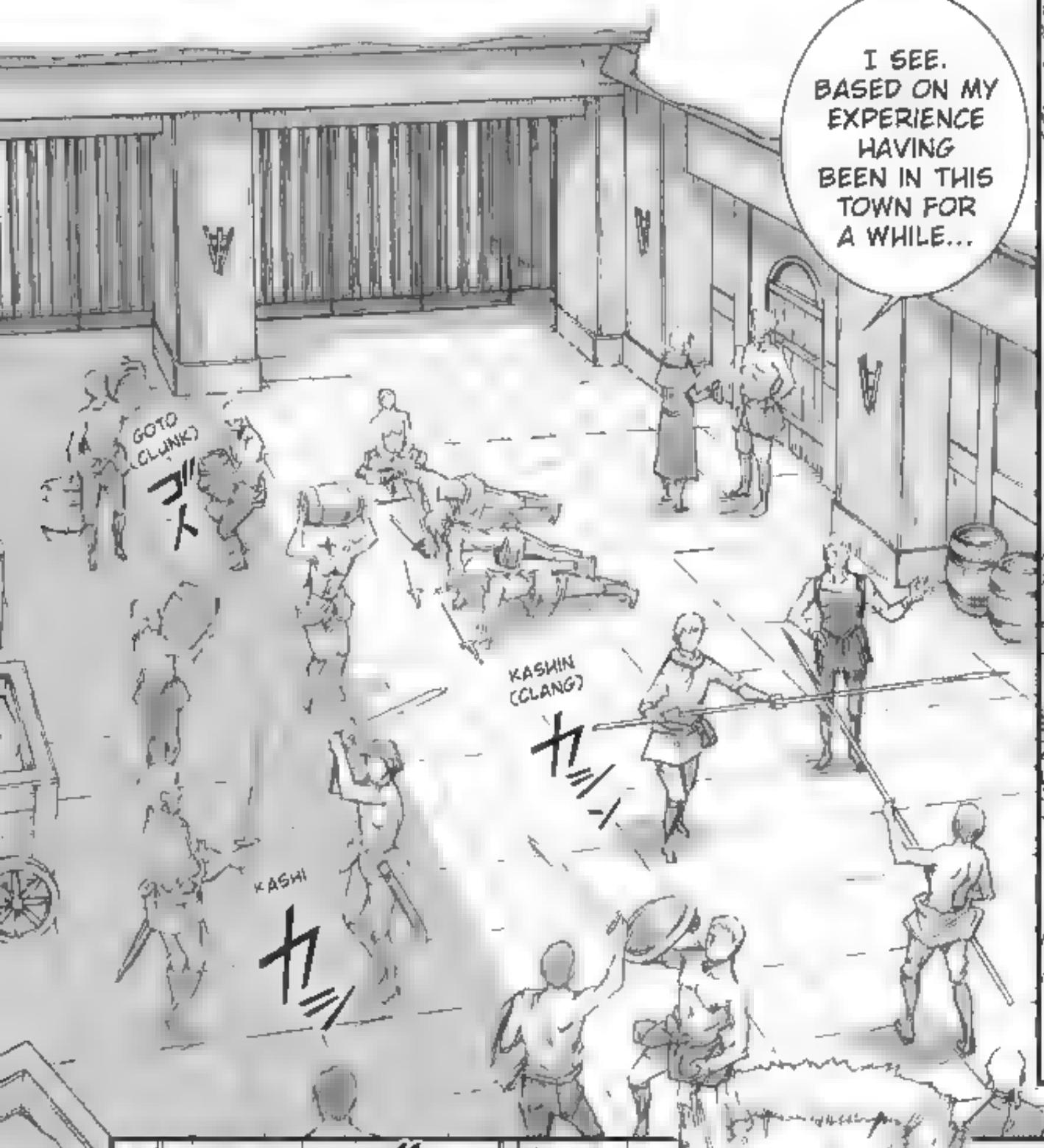
WHAT CAN
I DO TO PUT
A SMILE ON
THIS FACE?

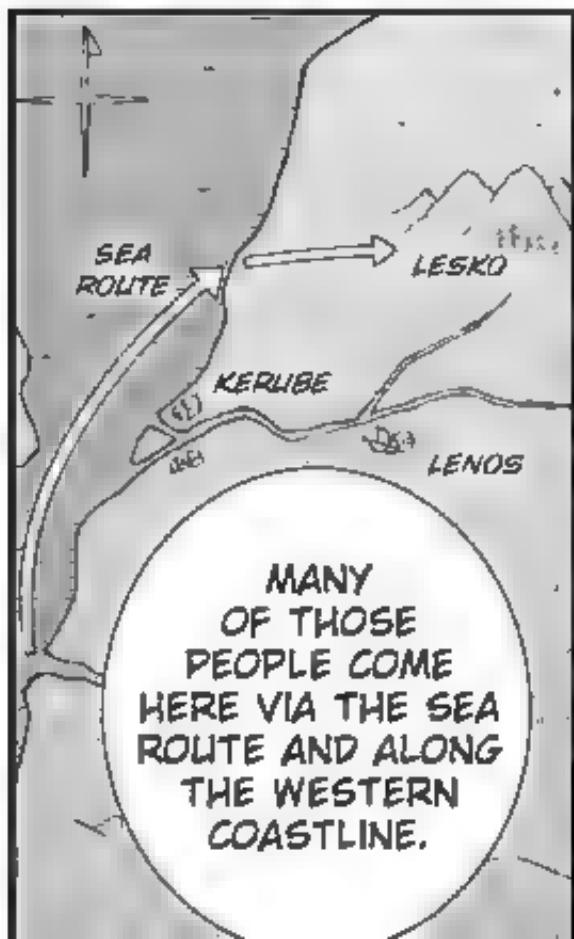


...I WANT HER
TO SMILE IN
WONDER OF
WHAT A NEW
DAY WILL
BRING.



SPICE & WOLF





IT SEEMS THIS TOWN WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT BY THE DEBALU COMPANY SOLELY FOR ITS OWN PEOPLE.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE COME THROUGH LENOS. I GATHER YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO LEARN MUCH OF LESKO?

...THE DEBALU COMPANY IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO KEEP LESKO UNDER WRAPS SO IT DOESN'T STAND OUT.

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE TOWN FLAUNTS ITS ACTIVITY NOW...

FLU (SIGH)
...BECAUSE IT WAS LARGELY MADE UP OF REFUGEES AND OTHERS WHO HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE AND NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

IT WAS A COMPANY THAT GREW THROUGH SUCH FRAUGHT CIRCUMSTANCES...

THEY HAVE COME THIS FAR BY EVADING EXPLOITATION FROM THOSE IN POWER, ALLYING WITH ONE TO FOIL ANOTHER AND SO ON.

THE COMPANY DID NOT ACHIEVE ITS CURRENT STATUS AND PROFITABILITY WITHOUT HARSHSHIP, AFTER ALL.



...THOSE
WHO HAVE
BEEN HURT
BECOME
GENTLER
TOWARD
OTHERS.

IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

GAKIN
(CLINIC)

...BUT
THEY HAVE
BROKEN AWAY
FROM PAST
CUSTOMS AND
PREJUDICES.

GOSHI
(SCRUB)

WELL,
THAT
MIGHT
BE AN
EXAGGER-
ATION...

POKAN
(STARE)

ま
か

WE SAW
THE ARTISANS'
DISTRICT
YESTERDAY.
IT TRULY
WAS LIVELY.

THE DEBALI
COMPANY
BELIEVED THAT
EVERYTHING
WOULD WORK OUT,
HAVING GATHERED
PEOPLE UNDER
THE NAME OF
FREEDOM.

GACHA
(CLACK)



NO DOUBT THEY'VE SEEN MANY SIGHTS, SUCH AS WHAT TOWNS WERE LIKE BEFORE THEY WERE BURNED TO THE GROUND AND THEN AFTER THEY WERE REBUILT.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! TIME FOR BREAKFAST!

MERCHANTS WERE PEOPLE WHO TRAVELED THE WORLD, BUT MERCENARIES SAW ROUGHLY AS MUCH WHILE RUNNING ABOUT IN THE MIDST OF WAR.

HMM ...

THIS TOWN, WHICH WOULD DEVELOP IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM, BREACHING PAST AND CUSTOM.

GAYA
HII
HII

GAYA (CHATTER)
HII
HII

AND MR. MOIZI, A STRATEGIST WHO RELIED ON HIS FORESIGHT, COMMENTED THAT LESKO WOULD DEVELOP IN WAYS UNIMAGINABLE.

...I BELIEVE YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT TO DECIDE TO OPEN A STORE HERE, MASTER LAWRENCE.

SO YOU SEE...





AN OATH WAS A SORT OF CONTRACT THAT MERCENARY GROUPS USED TO PLEDGE THEIR LIVES TO THEIR EMPLOYER DURING BATTLE IN EXCHANGE FOR PAYMENT.



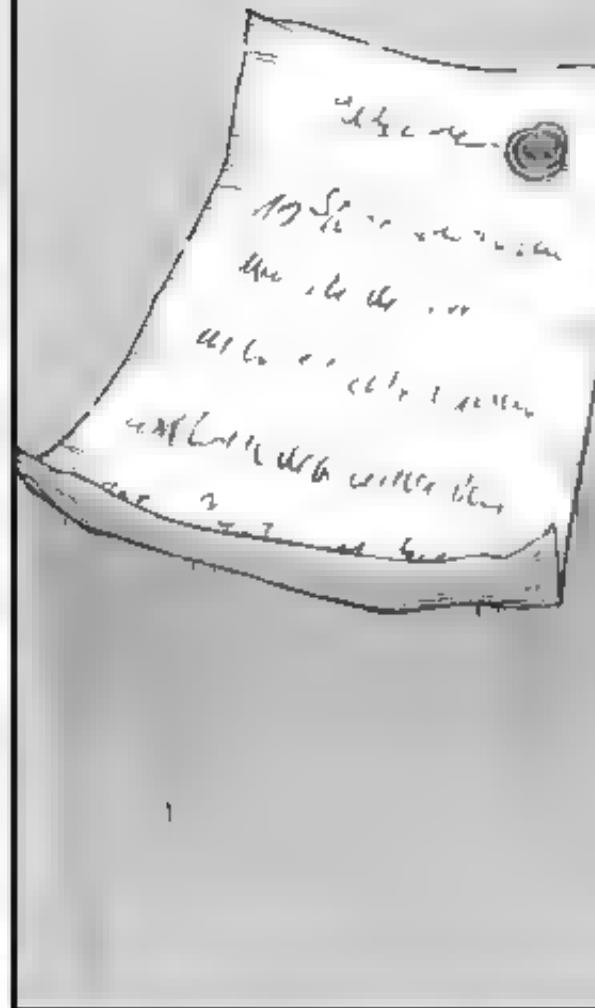
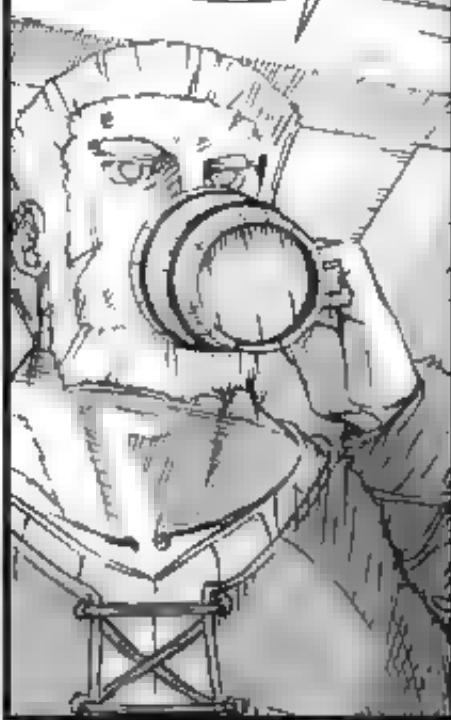
THE DEBAU COMPANY IS NOT ACCEPTING OATHS.



WE'VE CALCULATED THEY'RE PAYING TWENTY LUMIONE GOLD PIECES A DAY TO KEEP US.

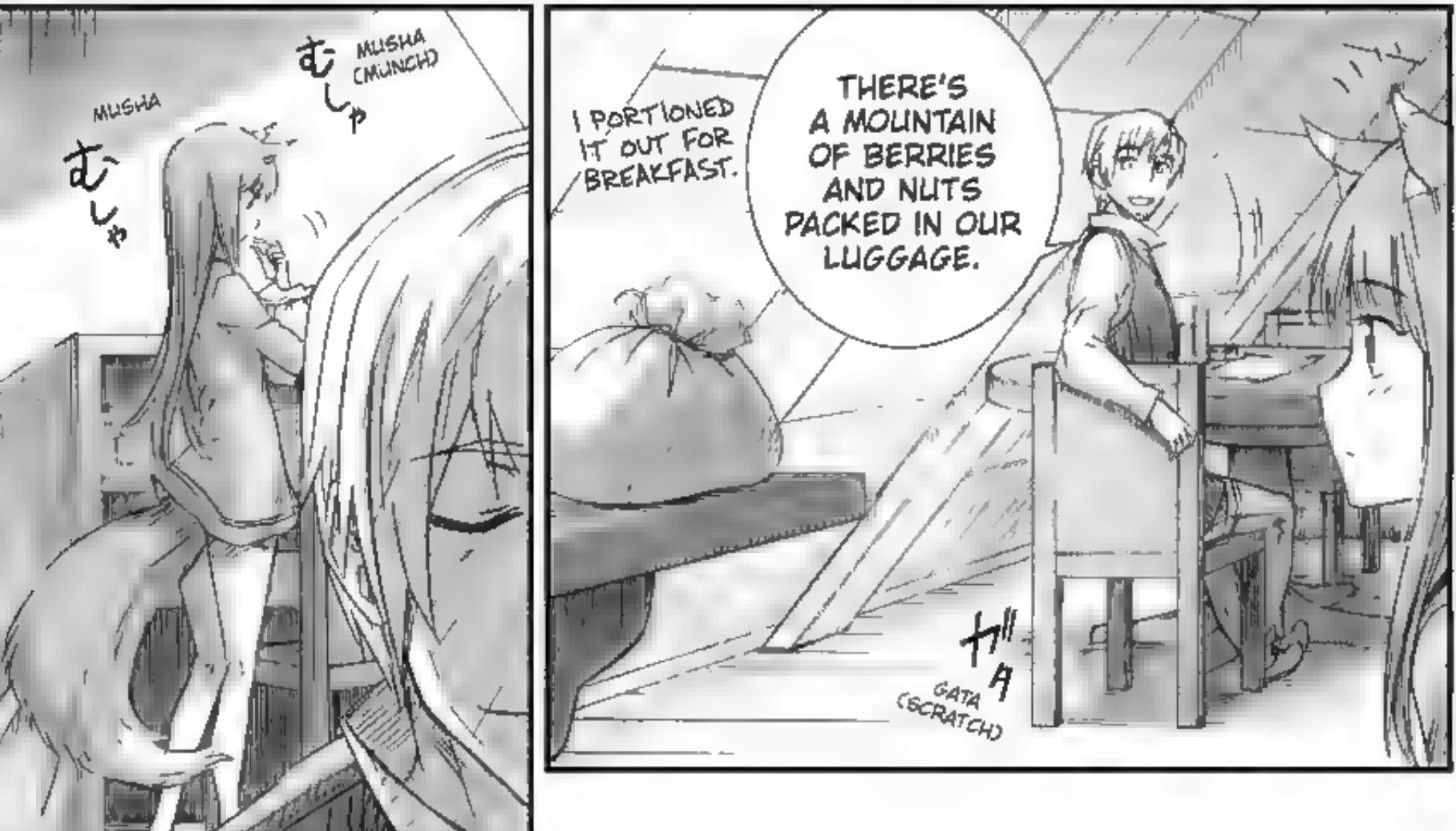
IT'S BEEN ROUGHLY TWO WEEKS NOW. THE GROUP THAT HAS STAYED THE LONGEST HAS BEEN HERE FOR TWO MONTHS.

WE'RE CURRENTLY USING THIS INN AS OUR HEADQUARTERS, BUT THE DEBAU COMPANY IS PAYING FOR THE FOOD AND LODGING UNTIL THE FIGHTING STARTS.

























THE DEBAU COMPANY IS THE DE FACTO RULER HERE. IT'S NATURAL TO INVESTIGATE THE OVERLORD WHERE ONE PLANS TO SET UP SHOP.

THIS TOWN, YOU SAY?

IN ACTUALLY, MY PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES WHEN I THOUGHT OF GETTING A STORE AND INVESTIGATING WHAT THE DEBAU COMPANY WAS UP TO LARGELY AMOUNTED TO THE SAME THING.

...AND WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS, LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE OR SOMETHING. I DON'T MIND.

I THINK THIS IS A SPLENDID TOWN FOR TRADING, BUT WE'VE ALREADY LOOKED INTO THAT...

A PLAGUE BROKE OUT ON THE WAY AND KILLED MY FRIENDS..... BUT...

I CAME HERE FROM THE SOUTH ON A BOAT RIDE THAT TOOK MANY WEEKS.

I'D SAY EVERYONE SHOULD COME HERE.

...IF I WERE TO WRITE A LETTER, I'D SEND ONE TO THE TOWN WHERE I WAS BORN.

BASA (CRUSTLE)

ZAKU (THUNK)

ZAKU



LET'S TRY
OTHER
PLACES.





AT ANY RATE, IT WAS A FREE PLACE, AND THE DEBALU COMPANY WAS AN ALLY OF THE PEOPLE.



...BUT I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO JUST BLITHELY ACCEPT IT, THOUGH.

MAYBE WE JUST HAD A BAD FIRST IMPRESSION...



...WHAT SHALL WE DO?

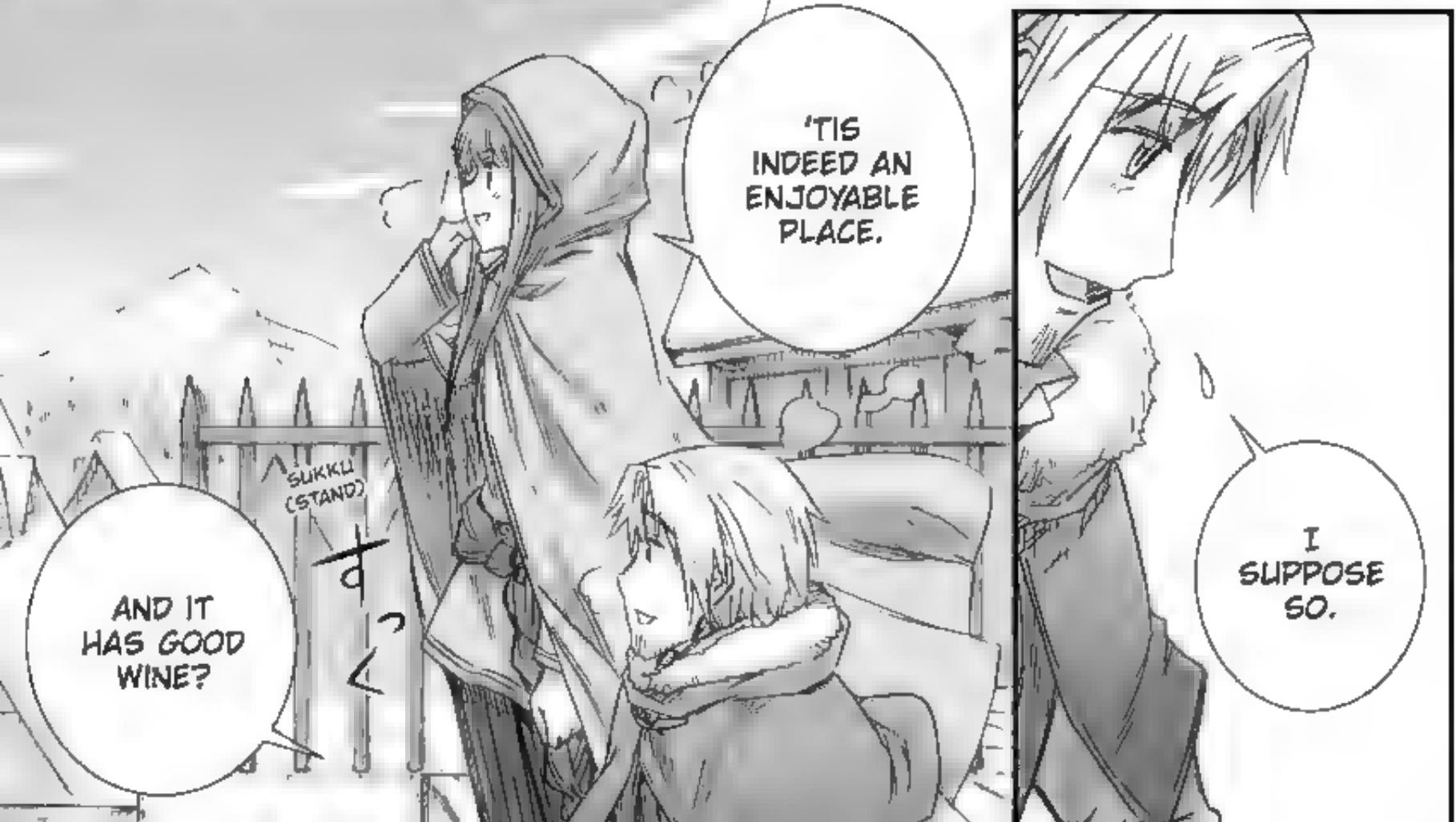
SO...

...HMM.

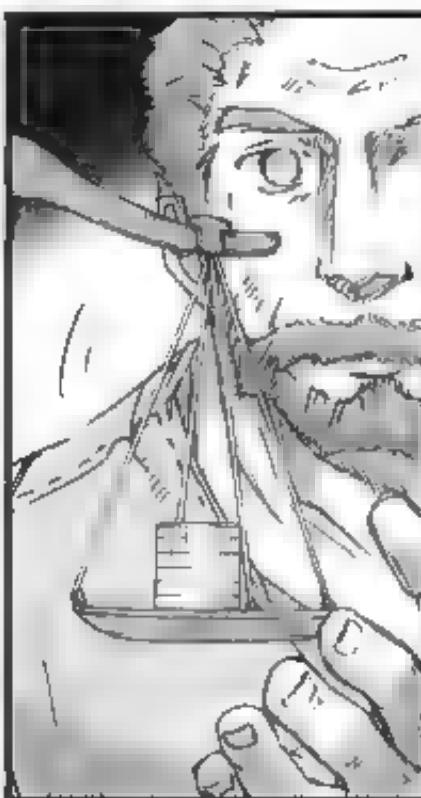
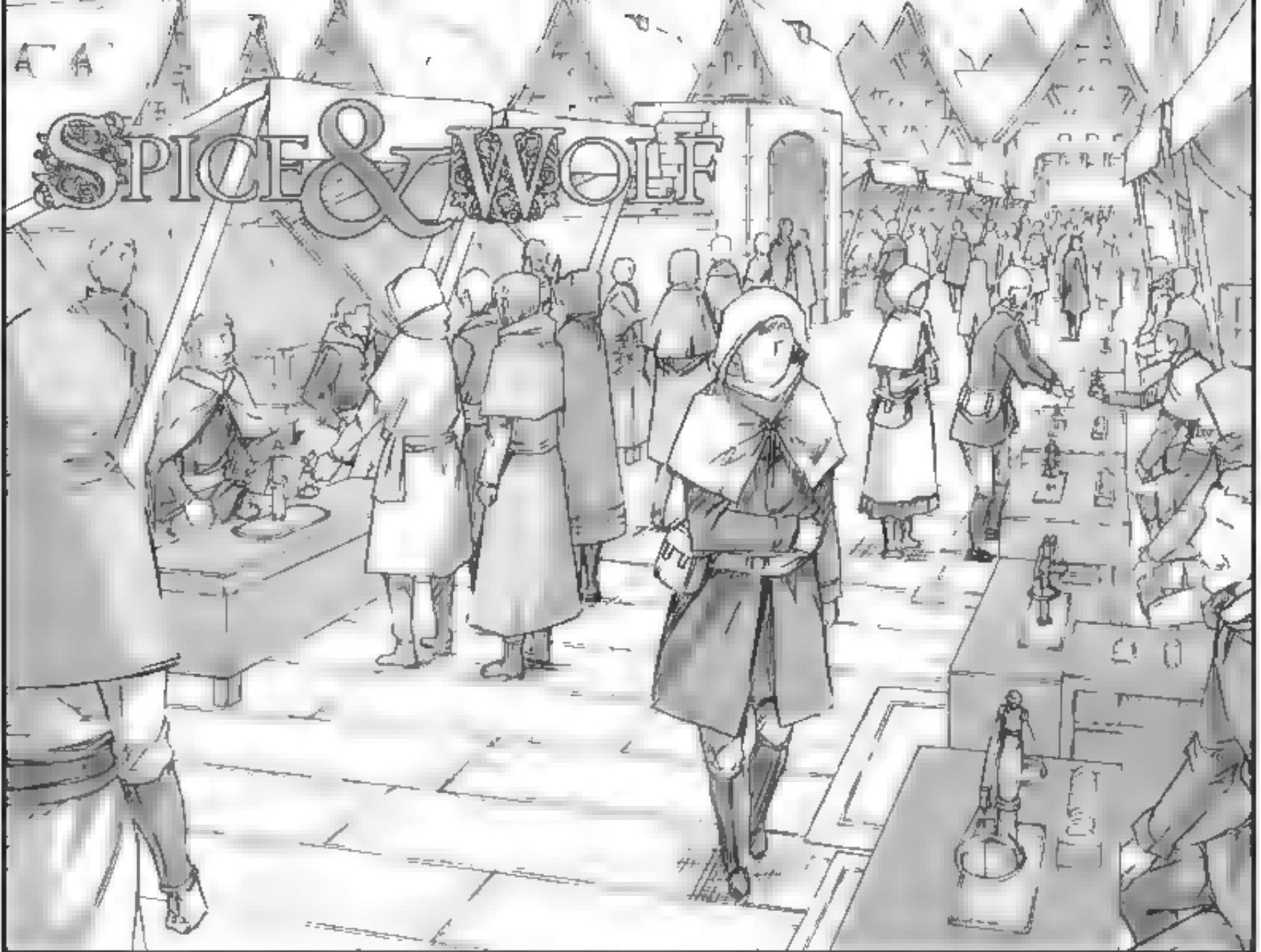
WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?



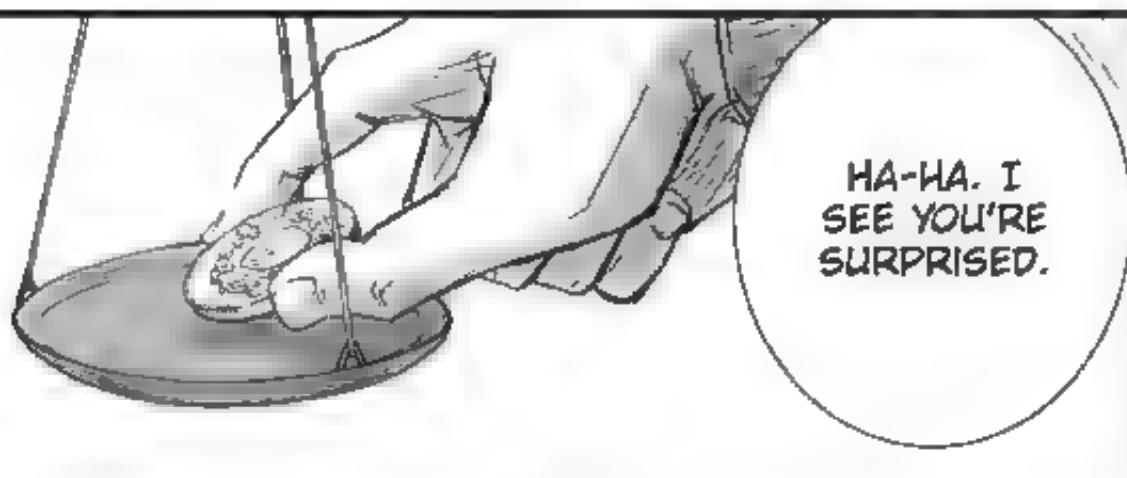
HOWEVER, I HEARD NO LIES IN WHAT THE TOWNSPEOPLE SAID.













TWENTY-
SEVEN
PIECES.

IN SOUTHERN
CITIES, IT'S
ABOUT THIRTY-
FIVE TRENNI
SILVER PIECES,
BUT WE'RE IN
THE RURAL
NORTH.



I'D SAY...
ABOUT FORTY
TRENNI SILVER
PIECES.

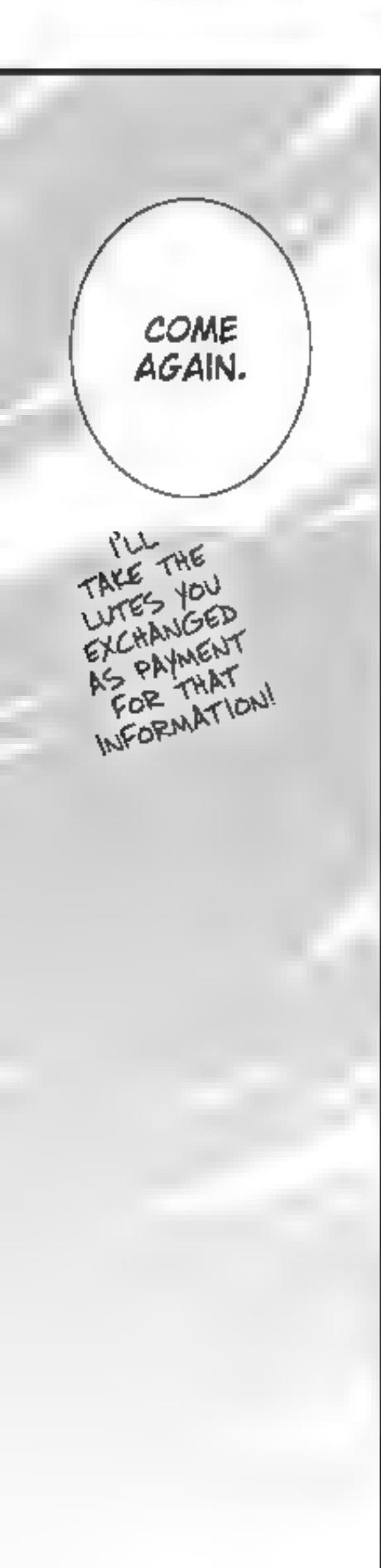


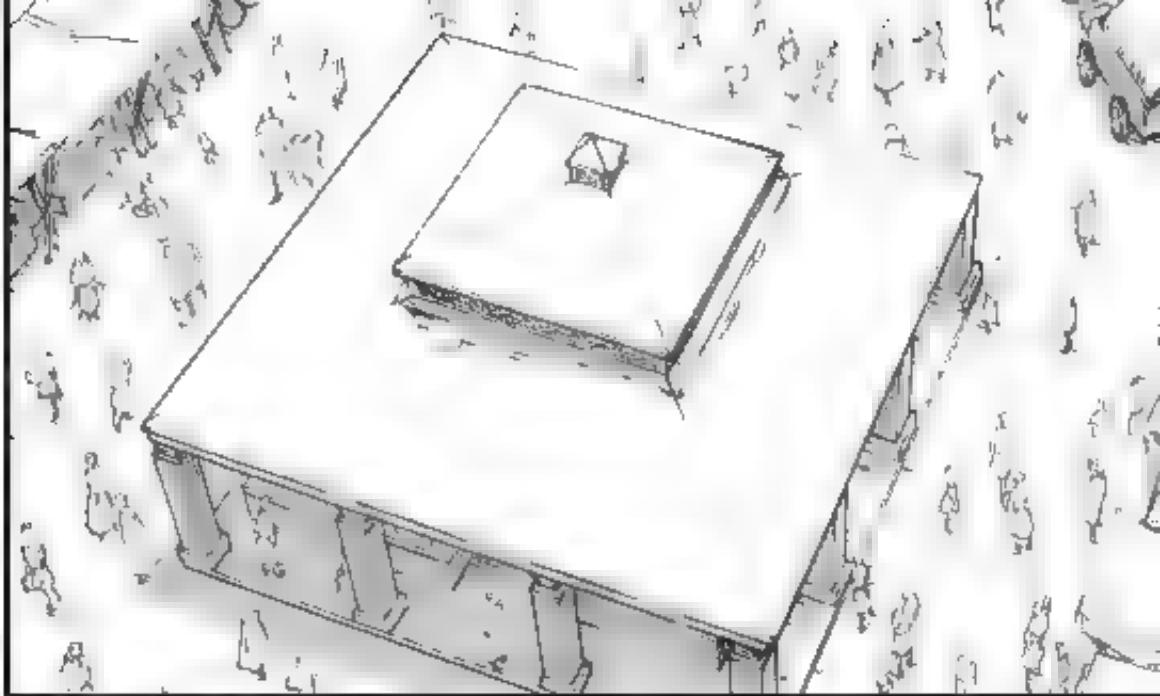
IT'S TWENTY-
SEVEN PIECES.
BUT YOU CAN'T
EXCHANGE
HERE.

HUH
!!!?



HA
HA...





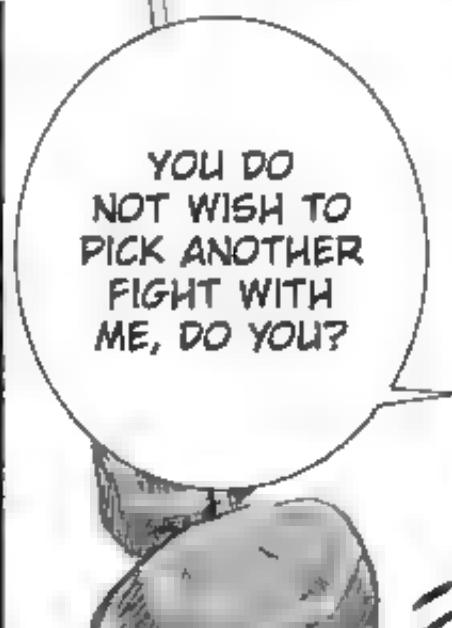
THERE'S NO QUESTION THEIR GOODS WILL SELL HERE.
...
TRADING IN THEIR HOMELANDS, THEY WOULDN'T MAKE IT. BUT ONCE THEY PASS THROUGH THE DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN PATHS...

THEY COME FROM THE DOLAN PLAINS TO THE NORTH AND THE WESSEL REGION TO THE EAST.

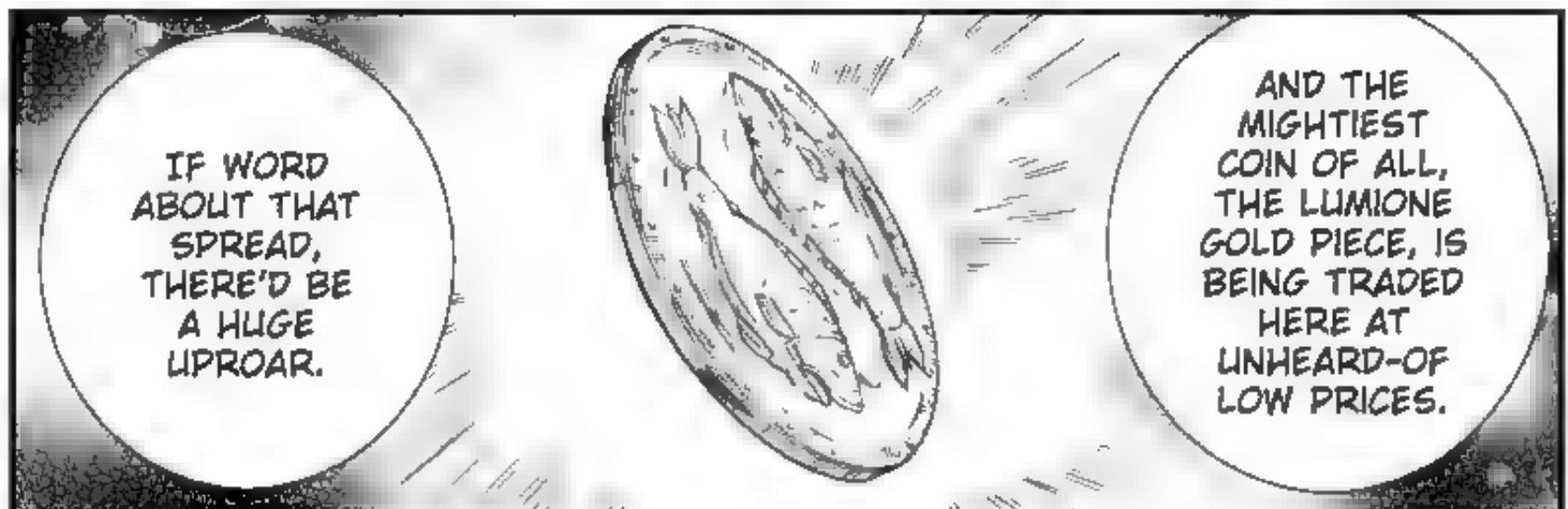
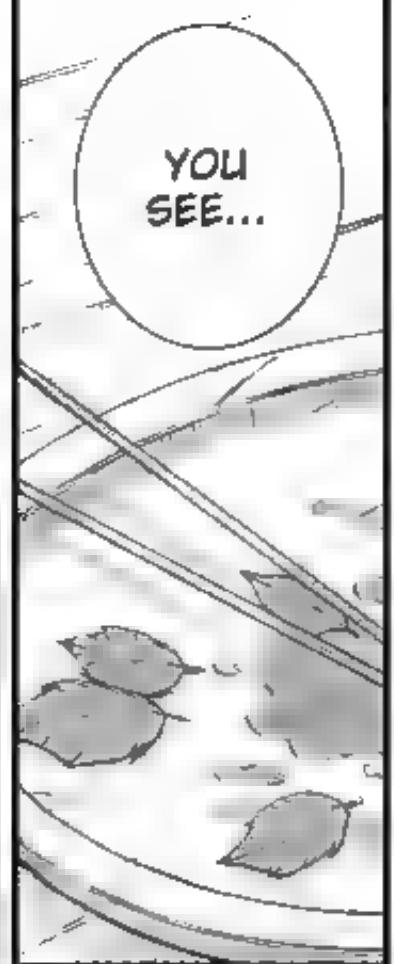
WELL, THEY COME FROM ALL OVER. THIS IS A MINING TOWN, AFTER ALL.

THE FOLKS THAT COME HERE?









HOW
DOES
ONE
PROFIT
FROM
THIS?

AND?

IT'S BETTER
TO KEEP YOUR
MOUTH SHUT
AND WORK
OUT HOW TO
PROFIT FROM
IT YOURSELF.

...WELL,
EVEN IF THE
MERCHANTS
IN TOWN
REALIZE IT,
THERE'S NO
GAIN IN
MAKING A
FUSS.

TRADE
LUMIONE
GOLD PIECES
THEMSELVES.

IT'S
SIMPLE.

IN ONE TRIP,
YOUR FUNDS
INCREASE BY
30 PERCENT.
CONTINUE THAT
FOR A WHILE, AND
YOU'LL BE A
BILLIONAIRE IN
NO TIME.

SO
EXCHANGE
SILVER FOR
GOLD AND GO
DOWN THE
RIVER PAST
LENO'S TO
KERUBE.

HERE,
TWENTY-
SEVEN
SILVER
PIECES IS
ONE GOLD,
YES?

LENO'S



THEN YOU
RETURN HERE
AND EXCHANGE
FOR MORE
GOLD WITH THE
EXTRA SILVER.

THERE, SELL
THE GOLD
PIECE FOR
THIRTY-FIVE
SILVER
PIECES.

IF THAT
WERE TRUE,
WOULD NOT
EVERYONE BE
DOING IT?

...IF EVERYONE
IS DOING THAT,
THEN THE PRICE
OF GOLD WOULD
RISE, AND THE
PRICE OF SILVER
WOULD FALL,
WOULD IT NOT?

BUT IF MY
THINKING IS
CORRECT...

THEY
PROBABLY
ARE.

GATA
(ISLAND)
III
A
W

THEN
SHOULD NOT
THE PRICES
HERE FALL
IN LINE WITH
THOSE IN
OTHER TOWNS
SOONER OR
LATER?

EXACTLY!
THAT'S
WHY I WAS
NERVOUS!



THEN WILL
YOU HOP ON
THIS WHILE
IT LASTS?

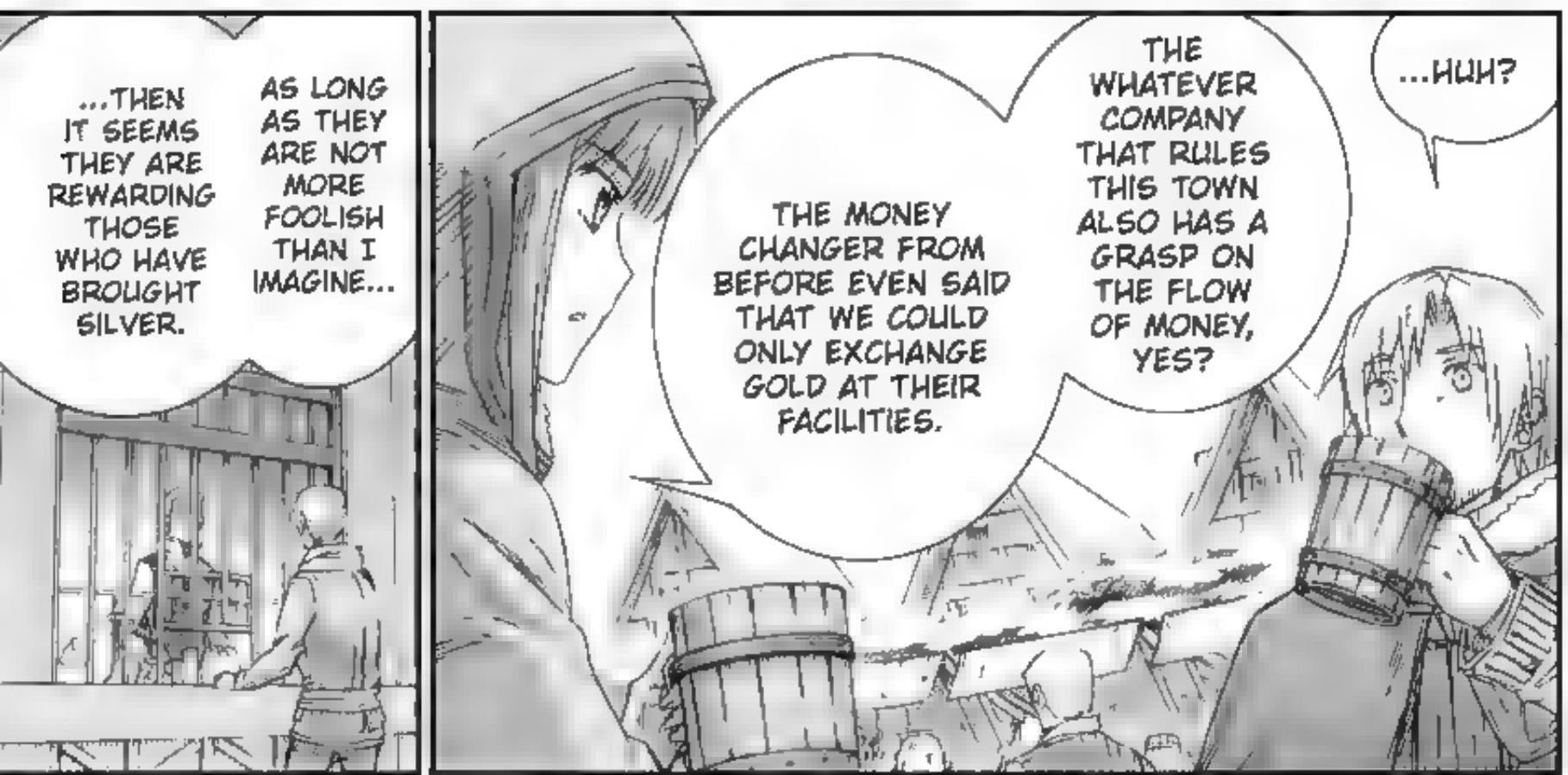


WELL,
I DO NOT
MIND SUCH
BOLDNESS
IN YOU.



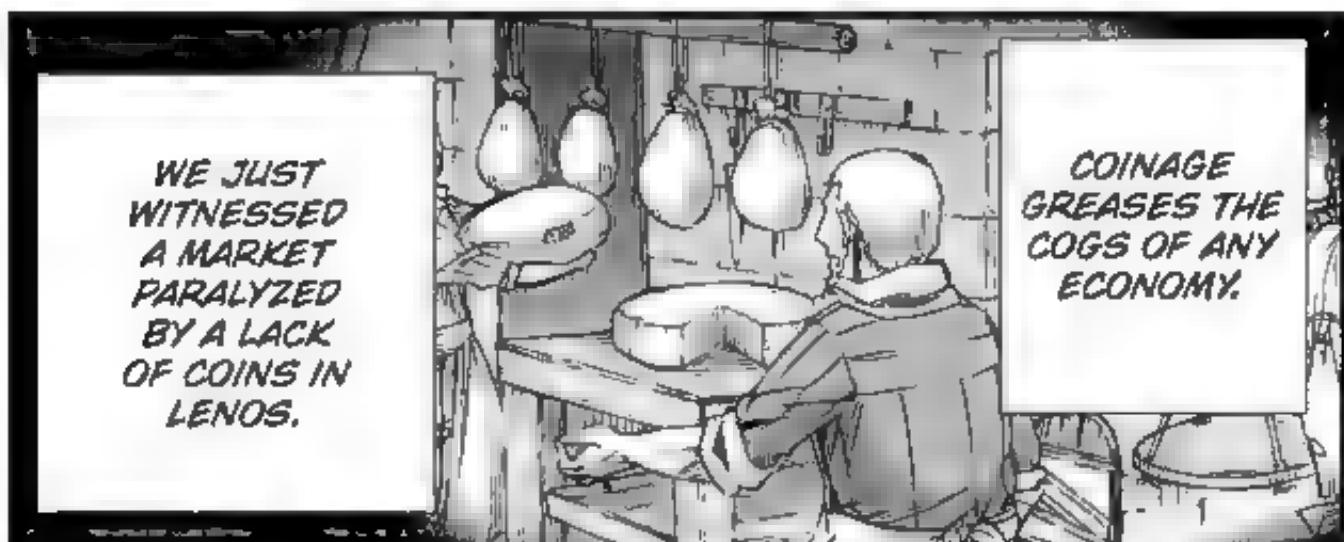
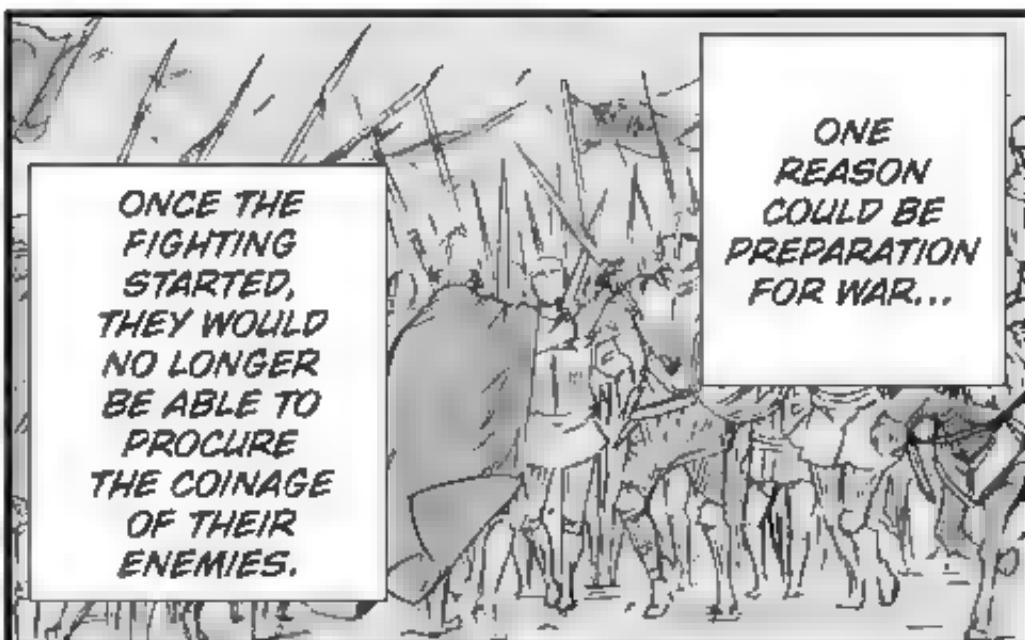
BUT IS
THERE NOT
SOMETHING
STRANGE
HERE?







THEY MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF GOAL.



THE SECOND REASON WOULD BE TO STIMULATE THE TOWN'S ECONOMY.





THE DEBAU COMPANY'S MINING INCOME CHIEFLY CONSISTS OF PAYMENTS IN GOLD COINS.



HOW
SHOULD
I PUT
THIS?
UM.....

WAIT,
NO.

WHAT WAS
THE FIRST
IMPRESSION
YOU HAD OF
THE DEBAU
COMPANY?

HEY.

DOES
THAT
MAKE
SENSE?

RIGHT. WHAT
DID YOU EXPECT
THIS TOWN TO BE
LIKE BASED ON
YOUR IMPRESSION
OF THE DEBAU
COMPANY?

—IT'S A
PLACE WITH
A LOT OF
MONEY BUT
NOT A PLACE
TO LIVE.

LIKELY
THE SAME
AS YOURS.
THE DANCER
GIRL ON THE
RIVERBOAT
SAID—

MM?

WE WERE
NOT ABLE
TO GATHER
INFORMATION IN
PRIOR TOWNS,
WERE WE?

AYE. AND WE
DID NOT EVEN
KNOW THAT.

BUT THAT'S
PROBABLY JUST
WHAT A TOWN IS
LIKE WHEN IT'S
ACTUALLY AT
THE ENTRANCE
OF A MINE.

YEAH,
SHE
DID SAY
THAT.

THAT IS,
WE COULD
NEVER HAVE
IMAGINED WHAT
THIS TOWN'S
ATMOSPHERE
WAS LIKE.

WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

SO
I WAS
RIGHT.

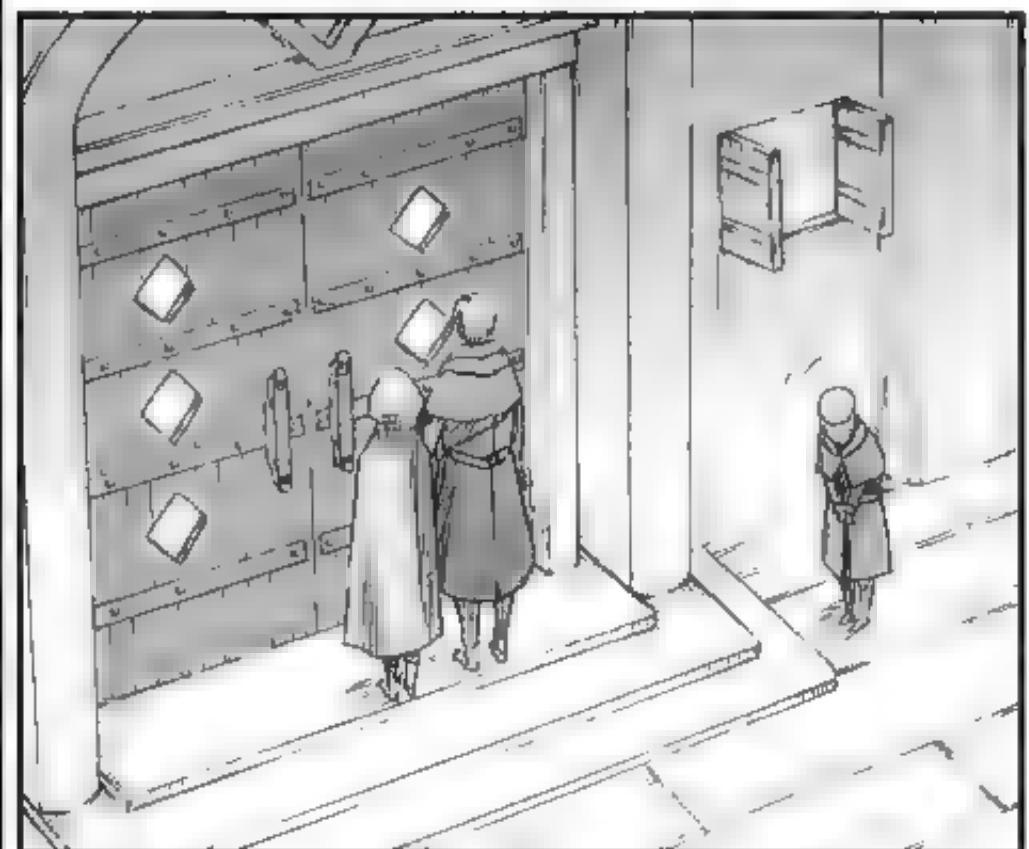
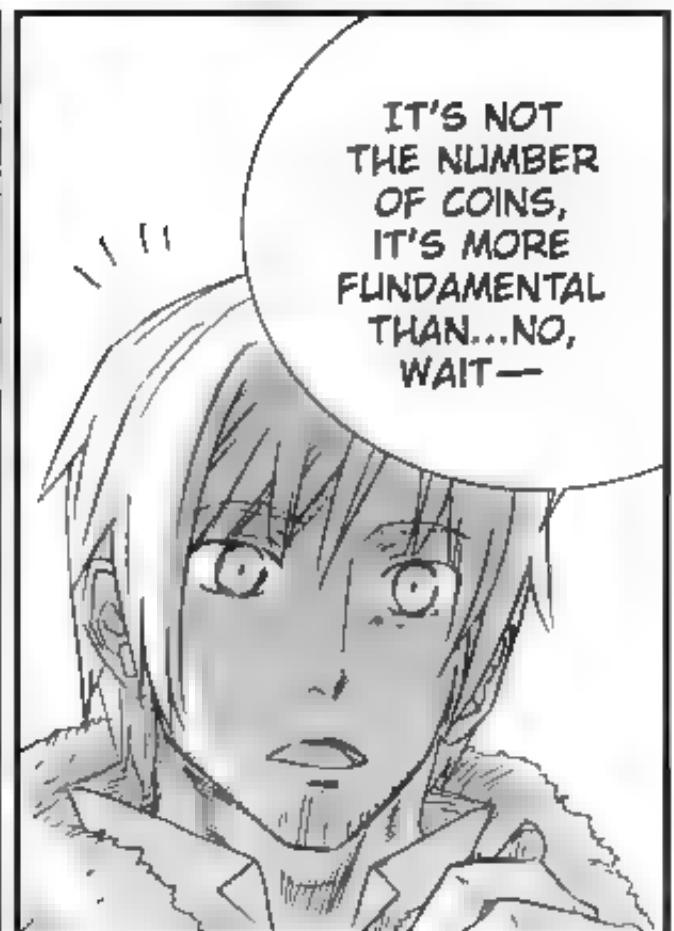
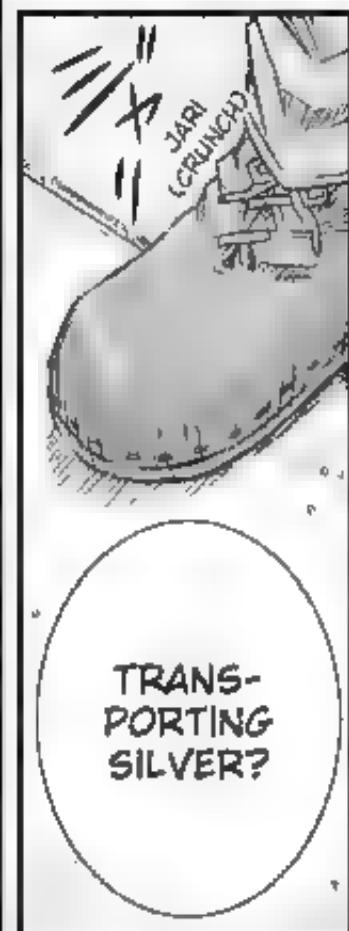
IF YOU
DIDN'T HEAR
ANYTHING,
THEN WE
REALLY
HAVEN'T
HEARD
ANYTHING.

BUT IT
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE
THAT.

...OR IF MY
MISCONCEPTIONS
WERE BORN
FROM A LACK OF
IMAGINATION.

ER,
WELL, I
WONDERED
IF I'D
MISS ED
SOMETHING...

HMM.





THOUGH
I KNOW
NOT WHAT
HAS COME
TO YOUR
MIND.

'TIS NO
PROBLEM,
THEN.

MM.

SHU
(EXHALE)

I
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
HATE
ME.

BUT I CAN'T
KILL MY OWN
CURIOSITY.

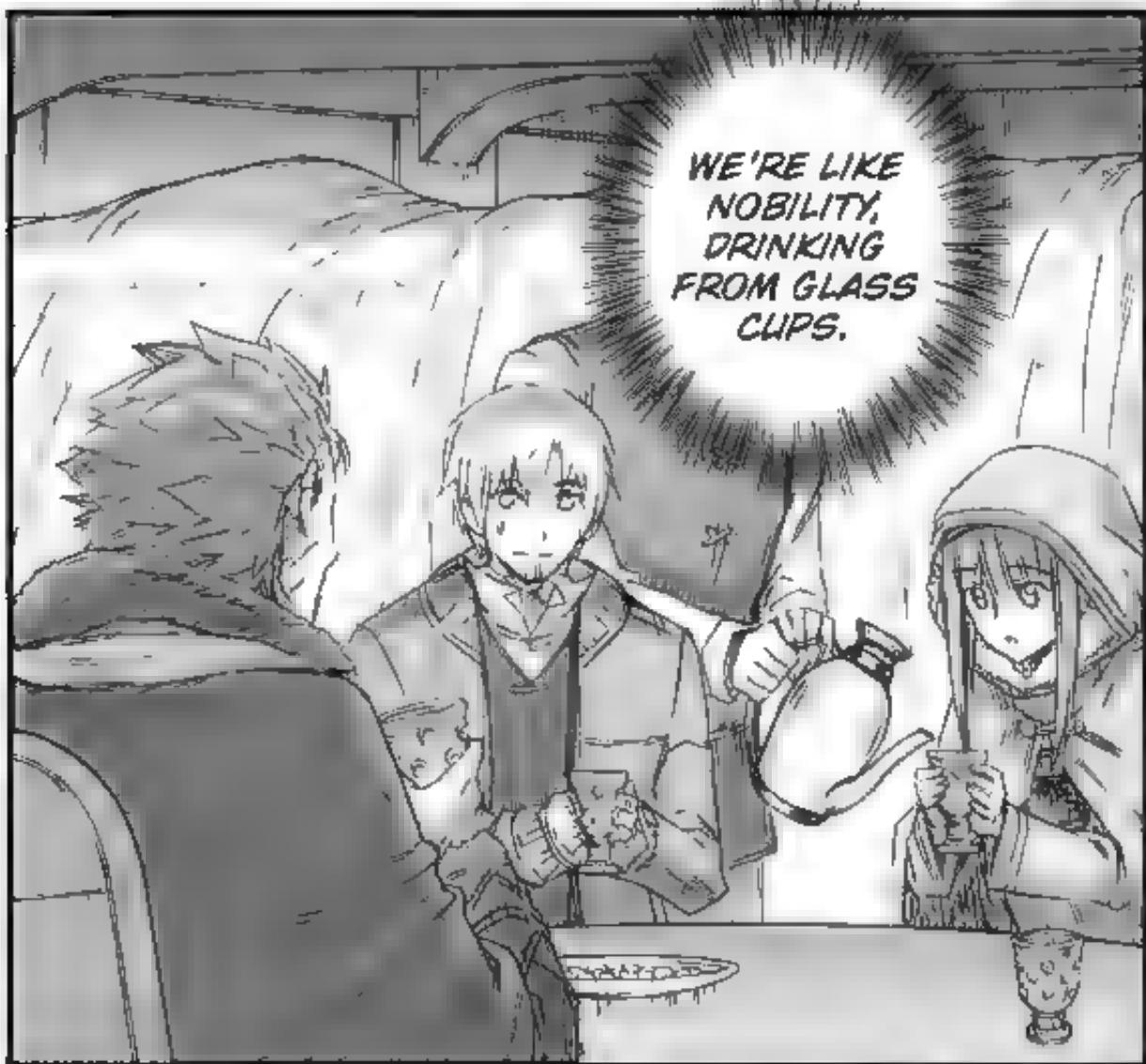
...WE WERE INVITED TO HAVE A CONFERENCE WITH MR. LUWARD, WHO HAD JUST FINISHED DINNER.

AFTER-WARD...

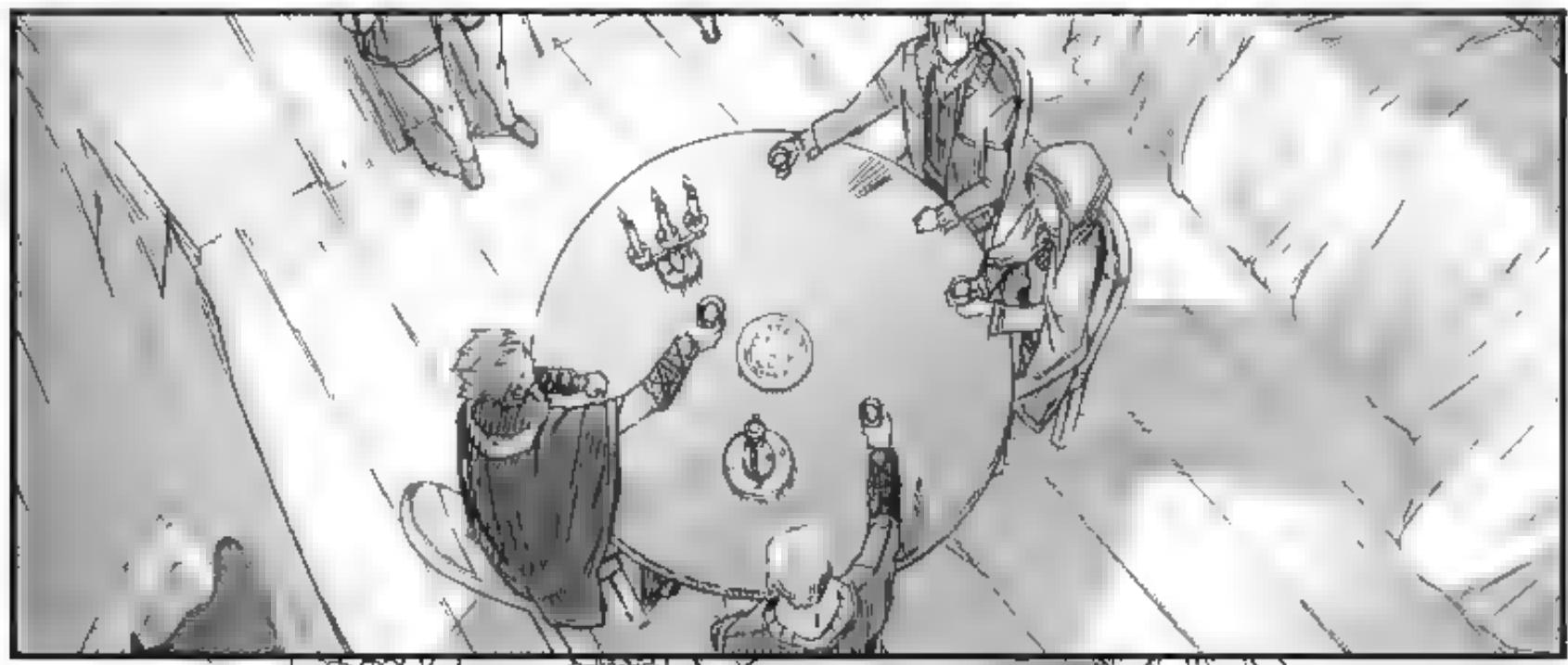


—SURE ENOUGH, THE EXECUTIVES OF THE MYURI MERCENARY COMPANY OFFERED US A "BANQUET."

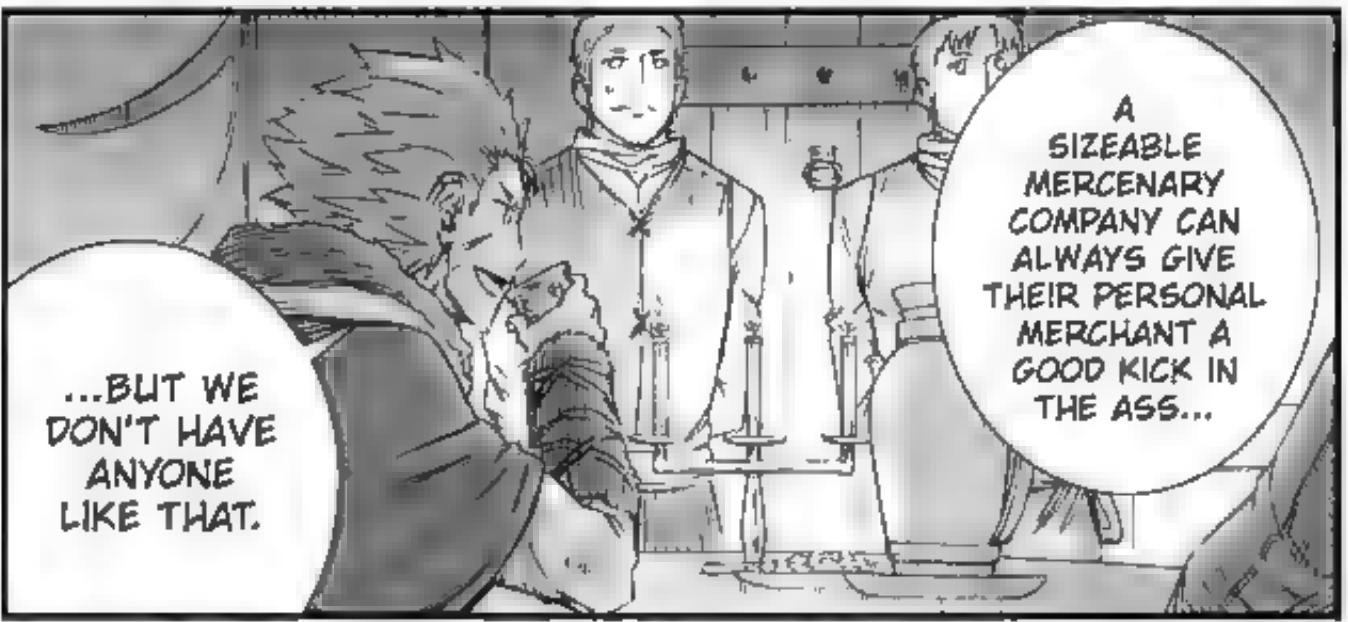
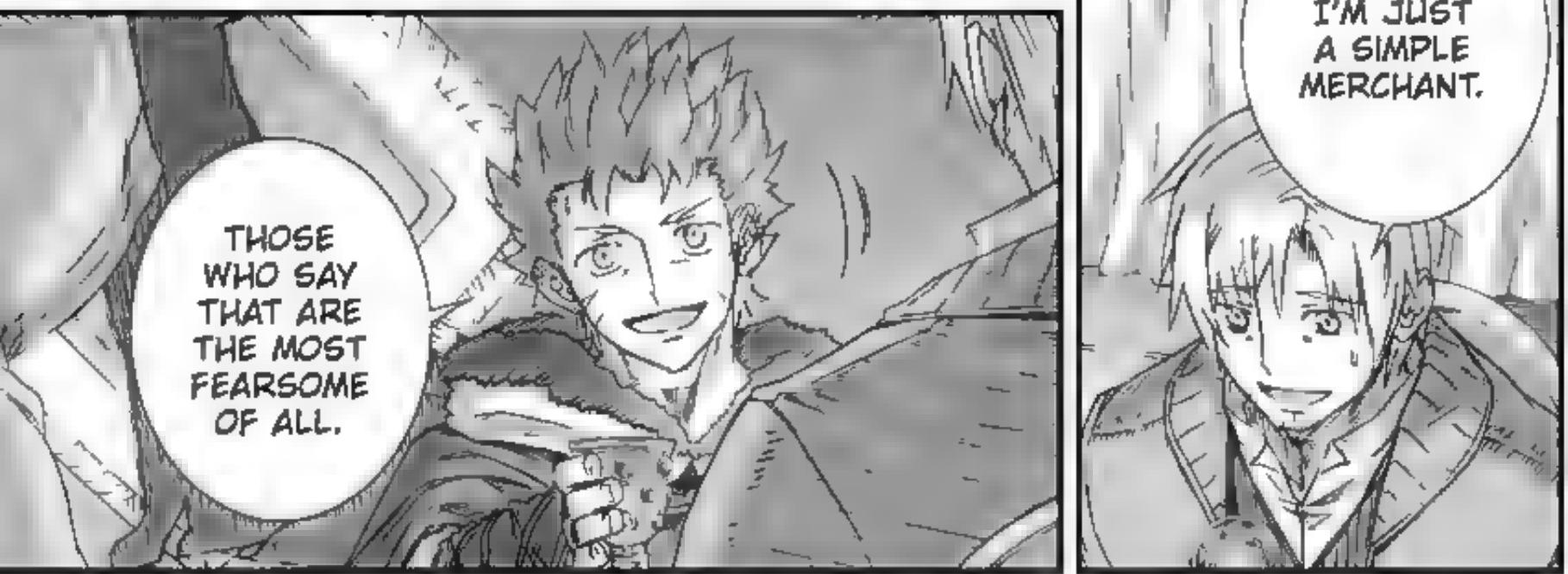




GIVE
THANKS
TO THE
CRAFTSMAN'S
SKILL!







SO
THERE IS A
SHORTAGE
OF SILVER
COINS.

YEAH.
HOWEVER,
SEVERAL LORDS
CAUGHT WIND
OF WHAT WE
WERE DOING
AND FOLLOWED
IN OUR FOOT-
STEPS.

IT
WAS. EVEN
MORE THAN
WHAT WE'D
DISCUSSED
EARLIER.

WAS BRINGING
IN THE SILVER
PROFITABLE?

IN OTHER
WORDS,
SEVERAL LORDS
SHOULD HAVE
OBTAINED THEIR
OWN SHARE
OF PROFITS.

IT
WASN'T AS
APPETIZING
AFTER
THAT.





SPICE & WOLF

THAT'S
WHAT I
IMAGINE.

IF BECOMING
LORDS IS TOO
DIFFICULT, THEN
THEY MIGHT BUILD
AN ALLIANCE
OF MERCHANTS
WITH POWER AND
INFLUENCE EQUAL
TO A NATION.

IF WE CAN
TAKE PART IN
ESTABLISHING
A NATION,
IT'S A BIG,
EVERLASTING
TRIUMPH.

THAT'S
WHY SO
MANY OF
US ARE
HERE.

THE
DEBAU
COMPANY
BECOMING
LORDS FROM
A TRADING
COMPANY?



WELL, EVEN IF THAT'S JUST THE POINT OF VIEW FROM THE WAR-FILLED PAST, IT'S EXTREMELY LIKELY THE DEBALI COMPANY WOULD HIRE US TO HANDLE THEIR FOREIGN TRADE.

WANDERING KNIGHTS WOULD GAIN THE PATRONAGE OF A LANDED SOVERIGN, AND WE MERCENARIES WOULD GAIN AN EXCLUSIVE EMPLOYER.



YES! EXACTLY.



AND YET, YOU DON'T THINK THE DEBALI COMPANY WILL ACTUALLY START A WAR.

THOSE ACCUSTOMED TO WARFARE WOULD BE A PRECIOUS COMMODITY TO PROTECT THEIR NOW-EXPANDED MINING TERRITORY AND TO SECURE TRADE ROUTES.



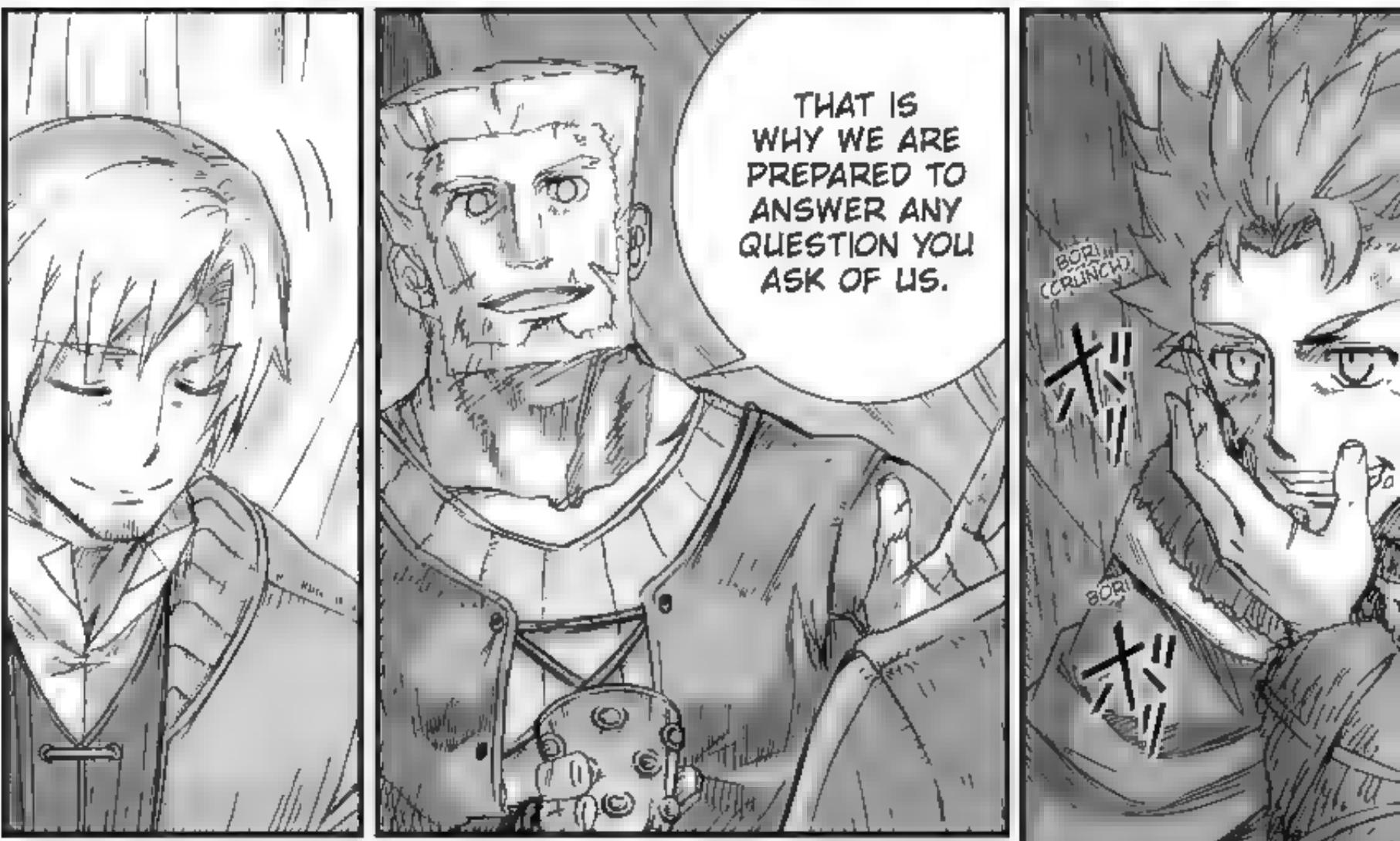
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DEBALI COMPANY IS THINKING OR WHAT IT WANTS TO DO.



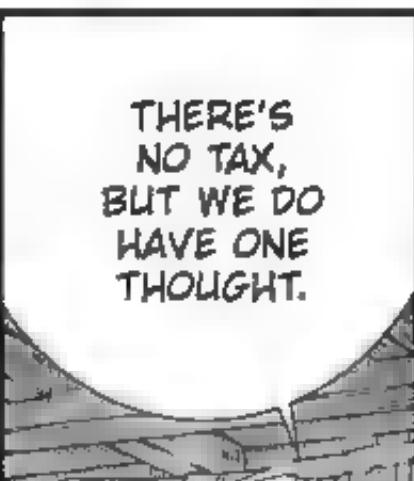
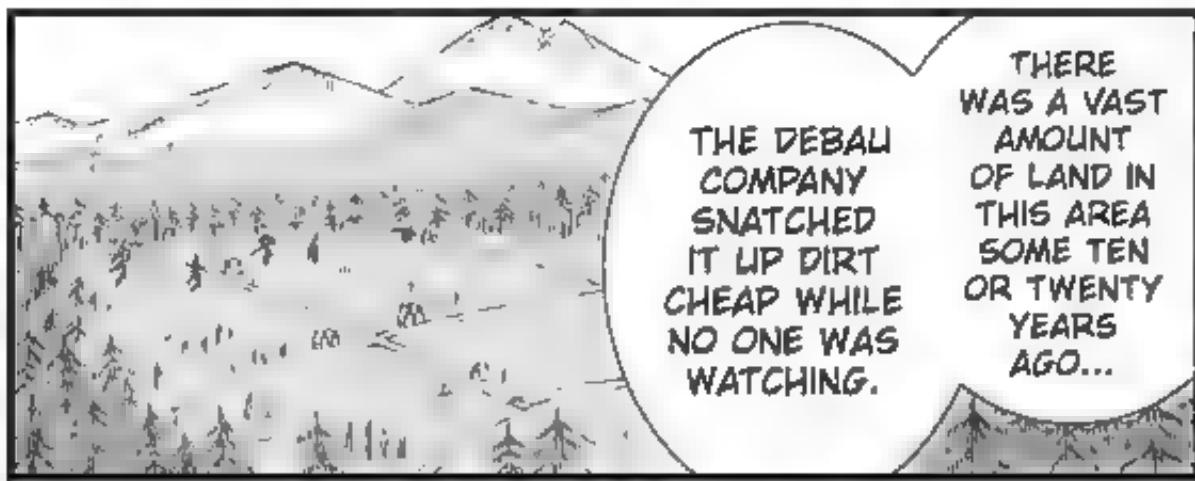
...IS BECAUSE WE HAVE NEVER FAILED TO SHARPEN OUR WIT AND PEER INTO THE FUTURE.

THE REASON WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY ON OUR BANNER THROUGH ANCIENT TIMES...











BUT THAT STILL LEAVES UNSOLVED MYSTERIES. WHAT DO THEY PLAN ON DOING ONCE THEY'VE HAD MERCENARIES AND LORDS BRING IN THE SILVER?

I CAN SEE THAT. IF THE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN THE TOWN ARE WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON LAND AND BUILDINGS, THEN THE TOWN'S ENERGY COULD PERSIST WITHOUT FRESH INVESTMENT.



YOU SAW...



AH, THE COMPANY BUILDING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE ARTISANS' DISTRICT. I HEARD YOU WERE STARING AT IT QUITE DREAMILY, MR. LAWRENCE.



SO, THE BUILDING FOR SALE I LOOKED AT WILL GO SOON, THEN?



YOU ARE OUR HONORED GUESTS, AFTER ALL.

MY APOLOGIES.
I SENT A GUARD AFTER YOU WITHOUT TELLING YOU.



THE MAIN COMPANY CONCERNS ITSELF WITH OPERATING THE MINES AND OTHER IMPORTANT PROPERTIES, WHILE LESS IMPORTANT WORK GOES TO VARIOUS DIFFERENT COMPANIES.



THE VHANS COMPANY IS LIKE A BRANCH OF THE DEBAU COMPANY.

IN OTHER WORDS, BUILDINGS SOLD BY VHANS INSTEAD OF THE MAIN DEBAU COMPANY...

THAT BUILDING IS BEING SOLD BY THE VHANS COMPANY.

...DEBAU MIGHT HAVE A FEW BUILDINGS SQUIRRELED AWAY FOR PEOPLE SUCH AS YOURSELF, MR. LAWRENCE.

OR SINCE THIS TOWN'S TRYING TO SELL PEOPLE ON THE IDEA OF FREEDOM AND DREAMS...

I HEARD THAT A WEALTHY LORD WAS CORNERING THE BUILDING MARKET, BUT I THINK THAT WENT UP IN SMOKE.





YOU'VE
HEARD
STORIES
OF IT TOO,
RIGHT?



NOBLES
ARE AFTER
THIS TOWN
TOO?



YEAH.



WELL,
IT'S ALL
RUMOR.



.....NO
MORE,
HUH...?



...NO
UNIFIED
KINGDOM
WAS EVER
ESTABLISHED
HERE.

AT ANY
RATE,
EVEN
AFTER
ALL THE
WARS OF
ANCIENT
TIMES...

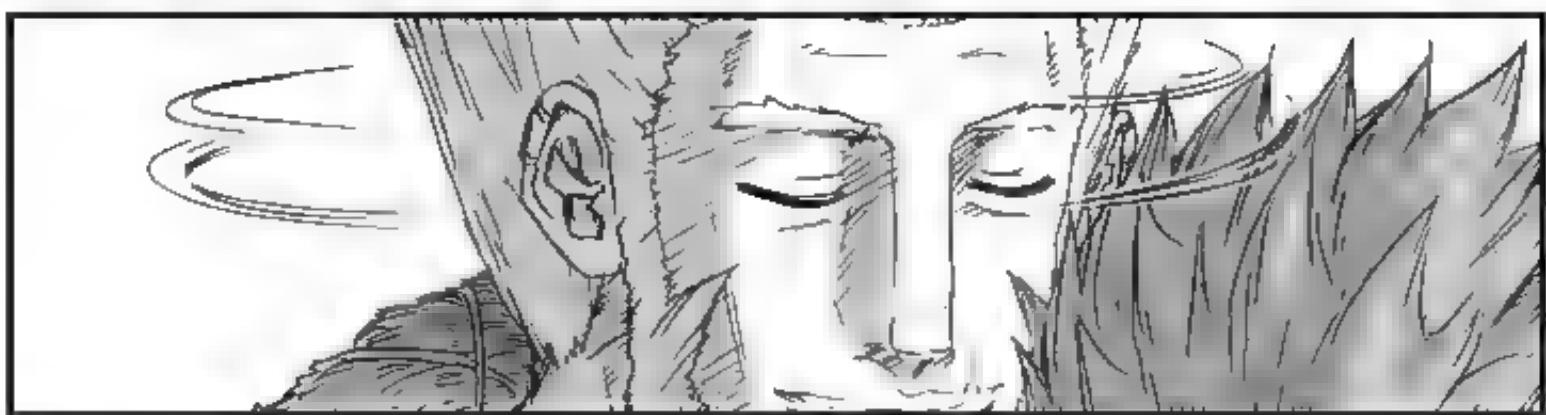


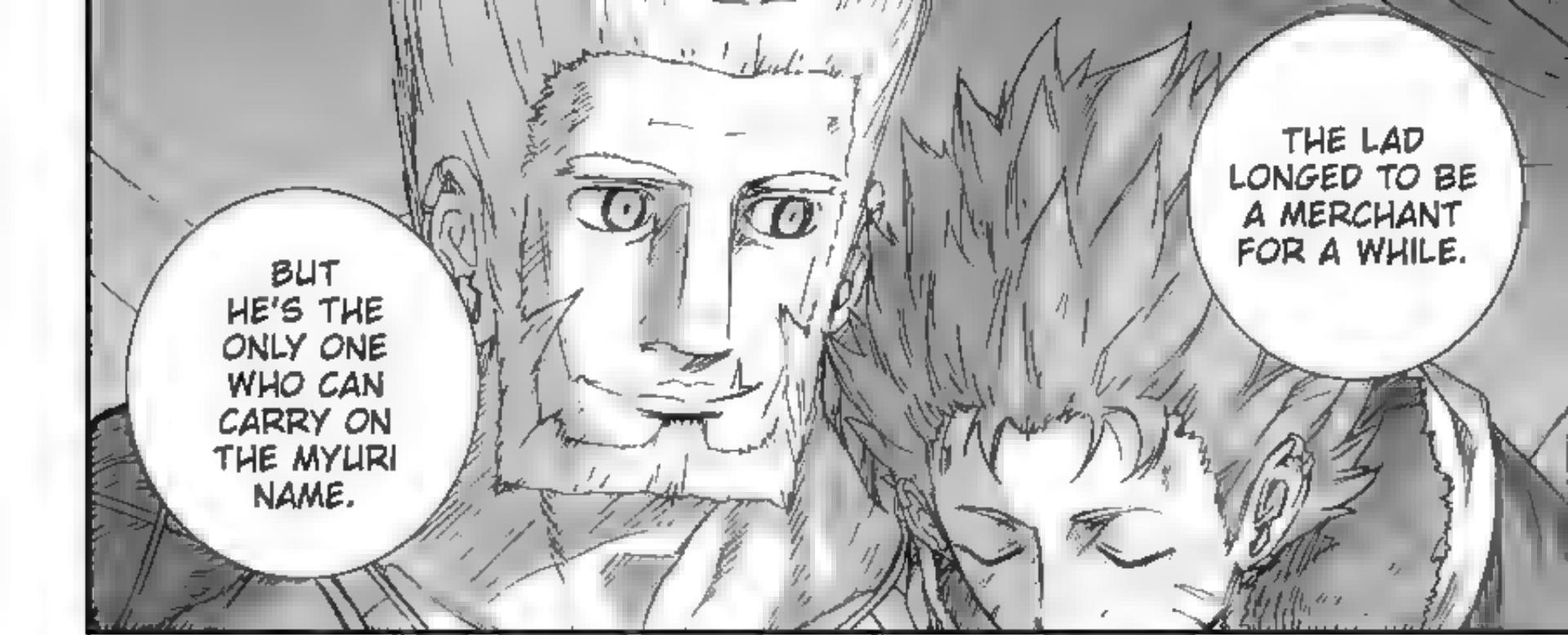
IT'S NATURAL
THEY'D BE MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT HOW TO
LIVE ELEGANTLY
LIKE THE
ARISTOCRACY
IN THE SOUTH
THAN MAKING
WAR.



AND THEY'RE
UP AGAINST
THE DEBALI
COMPANY.
THEY'RE UP TO
SOMETHING...







BUT
HE'S THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN
CARRY ON
THE MYURI
NAME.

THE LAD
LONGED TO BE
A MERCHANT
FOR A WHILE.

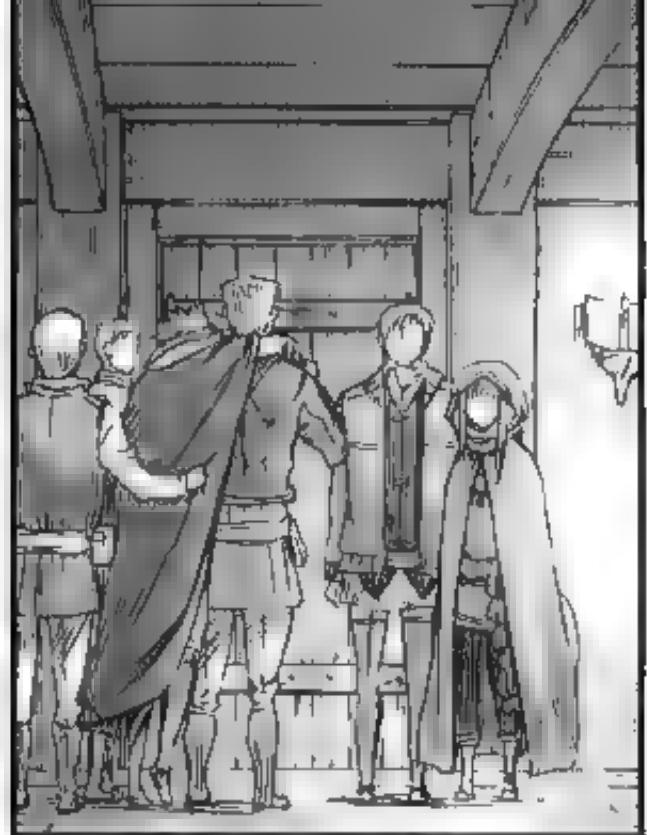


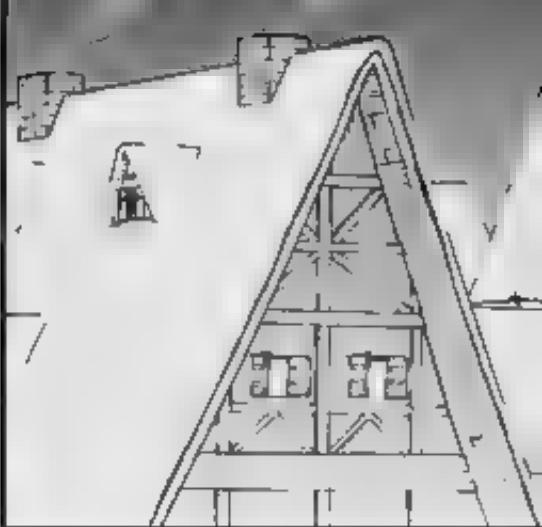
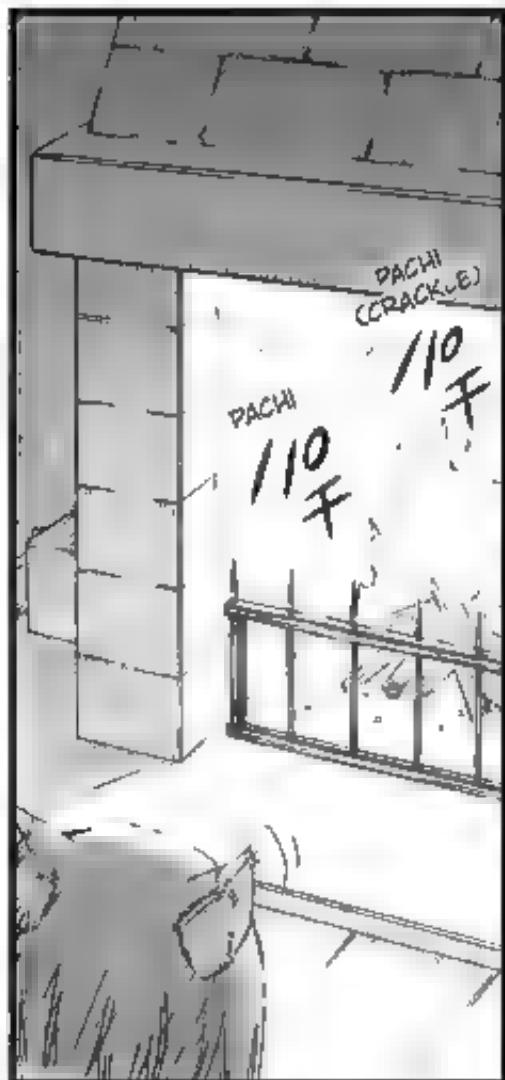
THAT,
AND THE LAD
COULD NOT
LOOK YOU IN
THE EYE.



WELL,
AT LEAST
WE SOLVED
THE MYSTERY
OF THE SILVER.
YOU WERE
THE HELP WE
SOUGHT, MR.
LAWRENCE.







BUT WHEN THEY GROW BIG ENOUGH, MORE OUTSIDERS AND TRAVELERS COME, BRINGING WITH THEM THE NEED TO MANAGE THE TOWN WITH WALLS.

SMALL COMMUNITIES LIKE VILLAGES KNOW THEY ARE ENTIRELY UNDER THE RULE OF LORDS AND HOW MUCH TAX THEY HAVE TO PAY.

FOR PLACES THAT TYPICALLY CALL THEMSELVES TOWNS, WALLS ARE NECESSARY.

...AND PEOPLE ARGUE WITH THE BUTCHER NEXT DOOR ABOUT WHERE TO DISPOSE OF THE PIGS HE SLAUGHTERS...

AFTER BUILDING WALLS, THE EXPANSION OF THE TOWN STOPS, HOUSES GET PACKED TOGETHER...

I'VE NEVER SEEN A TOWN LIKE THIS.

BUT THE DEBAU COMPANY HAS ACTUALLY DONE IT.

PEOPLE OFTEN LAUGH AS THEY CASUALLY CHAT ABOUT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF THE WALLS COULD BE SET ASIDE.

...CHICKENS AND PIGS ROAM THE NARROW STREETS, THE EVERLASTING PRESENCE OF GARBAGE, RENT PRICES CLIMBING HIGHER AND HIGHER—IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF WALLS.



HMM.

TO
(TAP)

CERTAINLY
THAT AS
WELL.

WASH

WASH

(SCRATCH)

THEY
ARE
TRICKY
ONES,
THEN.

ARE YOU
TRULY
THINKING
THIS
OVER?



GYU
(SQUEEZE)

XH!
XH!

!?

I'M
THINKING.

WHY'D YOU
SUDDENLY
SAY THAT?

THEN WHY
HAVE YOU
JUMPED TO THE
CONCLUSION
THAT THAT
COMPANY IS
A VILLAIN?

GIRL
(GRIP)

GIRL

...LIE?
HOLD ON.
I DON'T EVEN
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING.



EVEN IF THAT
COMPANY PRIES
YOITSU OR
OTHER PLACES
OUT OF THE
GROUND...

...THERE IS
ONE I LIVE
WITH IN THE
PRESENT.

...ANGERS
...

...LAUGHS...

...SPEAKS...

IF YOU
DECIDE
TO OPEN
A SHOP
IN THIS
TOWN...

...I'LL
BE RIGHT
BESIDE
YOU.

ER,
BUT...

DO
NOT
WORRY
ABOUT
ME.

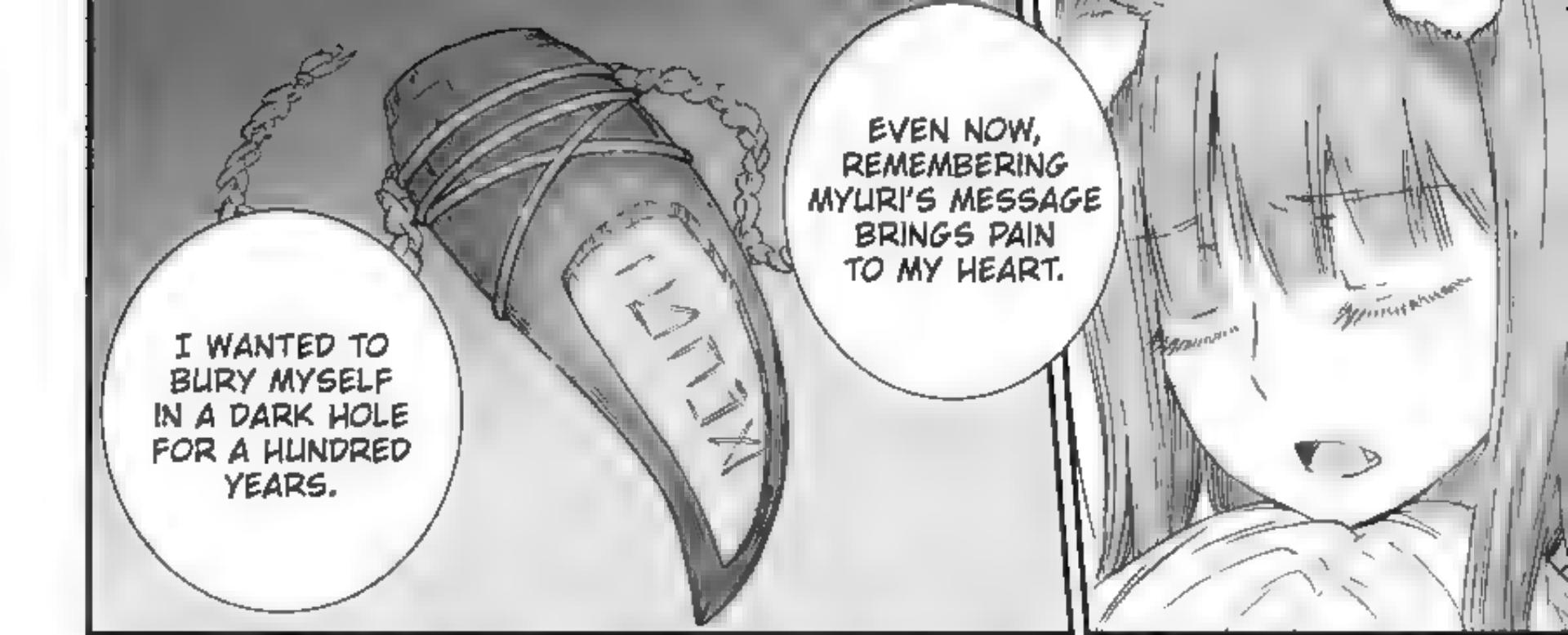


IT IS NO
OLD STORY,
NO LEGEND,
NOT EVEN
A FOOLISH
MESSAGE
CARVED INTO
A CLAW.

ONE WHO
LIVES...

...ANNOYS
ME...

...AND IS A FOOL,
BUT HE HAS HIS
EYES SQUARELY
UPON THE MORROW,
WHO COMES AND
TAKES MY HAND.



I WANTED TO
BURY MYSELF
IN A DARK HOLE
FOR A HUNDRED
YEARS.

EVEN NOW,
REMEMBERING
MYURI'S MESSAGE
BRINGS PAIN
TO MY HEART.



HOWEVER...



DO YOU
KNOW HOW
HAPPY THAT
MADE ME?



...YOU
EXTENDED
YOUR
HAND AND
PULLED
ME OUT.



I CANNOT
HELP BUT BE
HAPPY THAT I
AM IMPORTANT
TO YOU.



I MIND NOT
THE SIGHT OF
YOU TRAVELING,
BUT I LIKE THE
SIGHT OF YOU
SEATED AND
WRITING AS
WELL.



TO SEE
YOU QUIETLY
CONCENTRATING
ON WRITING...

...
YES
...

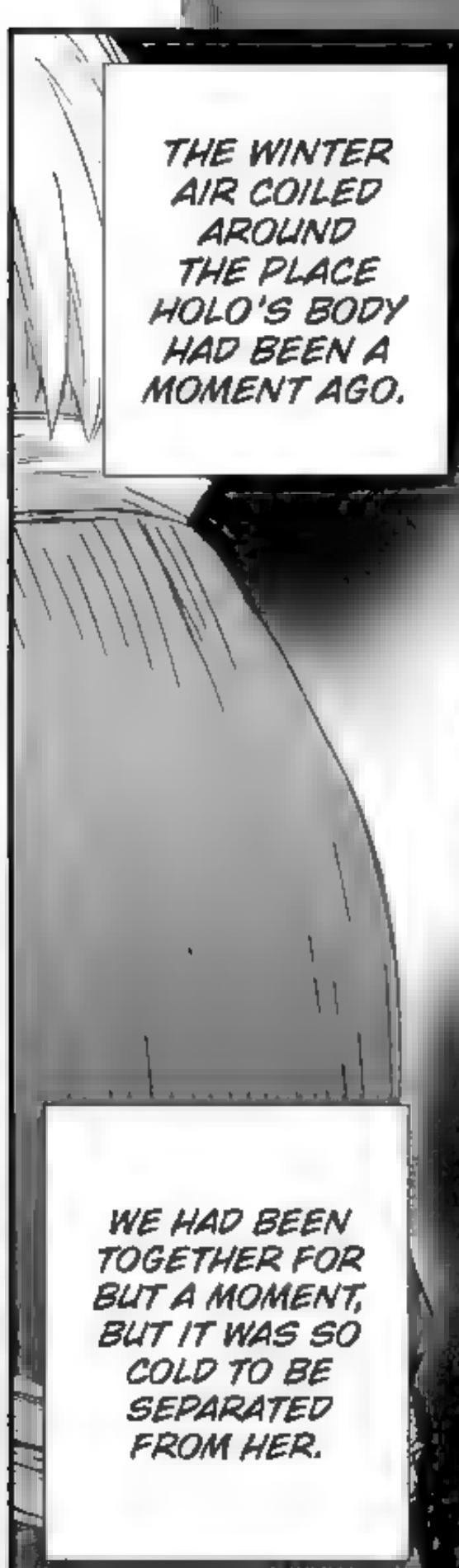
...IT SUITS
YOU WELL, I
SUPPOSE.

BUT IT
HURTS ME
TO BE YOUR
MILLSTONE.





THAT IS
WHY, YOU
SEE.



THE WINTER
AIR COILED
AROUND
THE PLACE
HOLO'S BODY
HAD BEEN A
MOMENT AGO.



WE HAD BEEN
TOGETHER FOR
BUT A MOMENT,
BUT IT WAS SO
COLD TO BE
SEPARATED
FROM HER.



EVEN IF THAT COMPANY IS FOOLISH AND THE TOWN GOES INTO DECLINE, CAUSING YOUR SHOP TO GO OUT OF BUSINESS...

IT WAS AN INCREDIBLY SIGNIFICANT TRUTH.

...THEN WE'LL SIMPLY ENJOY TRAVELING TOGETHER AGAIN.

WELL, THAT'S TRUE.



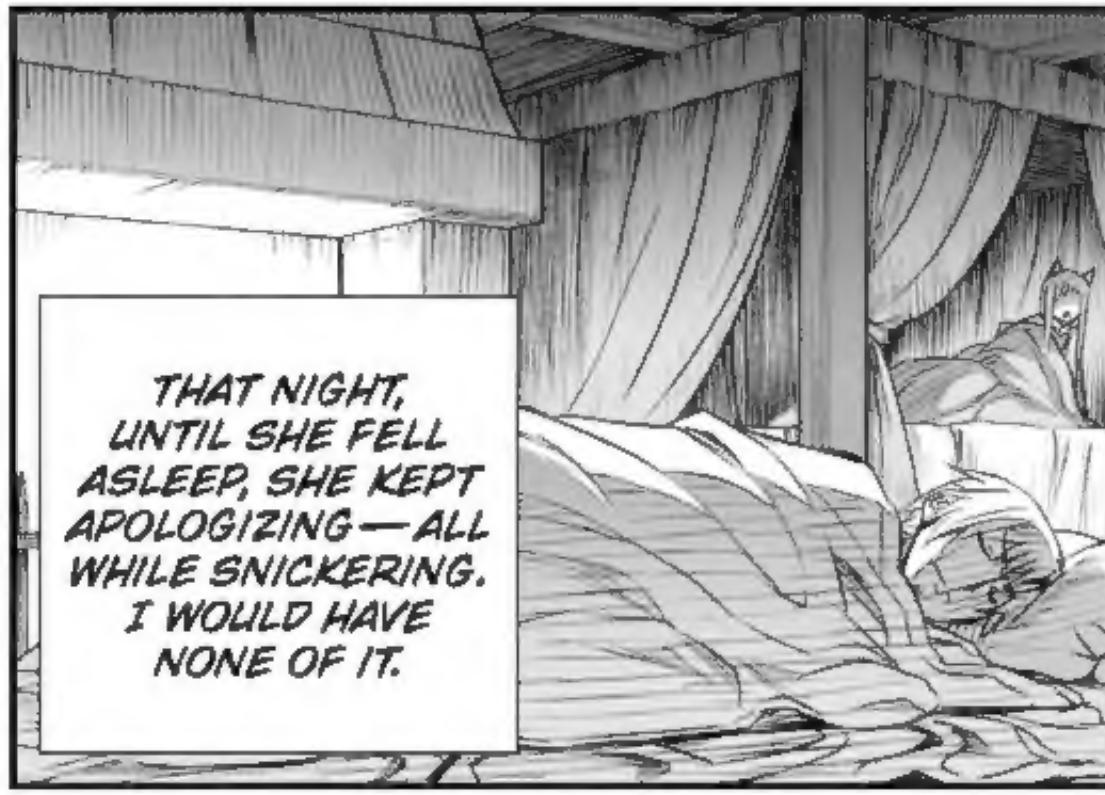


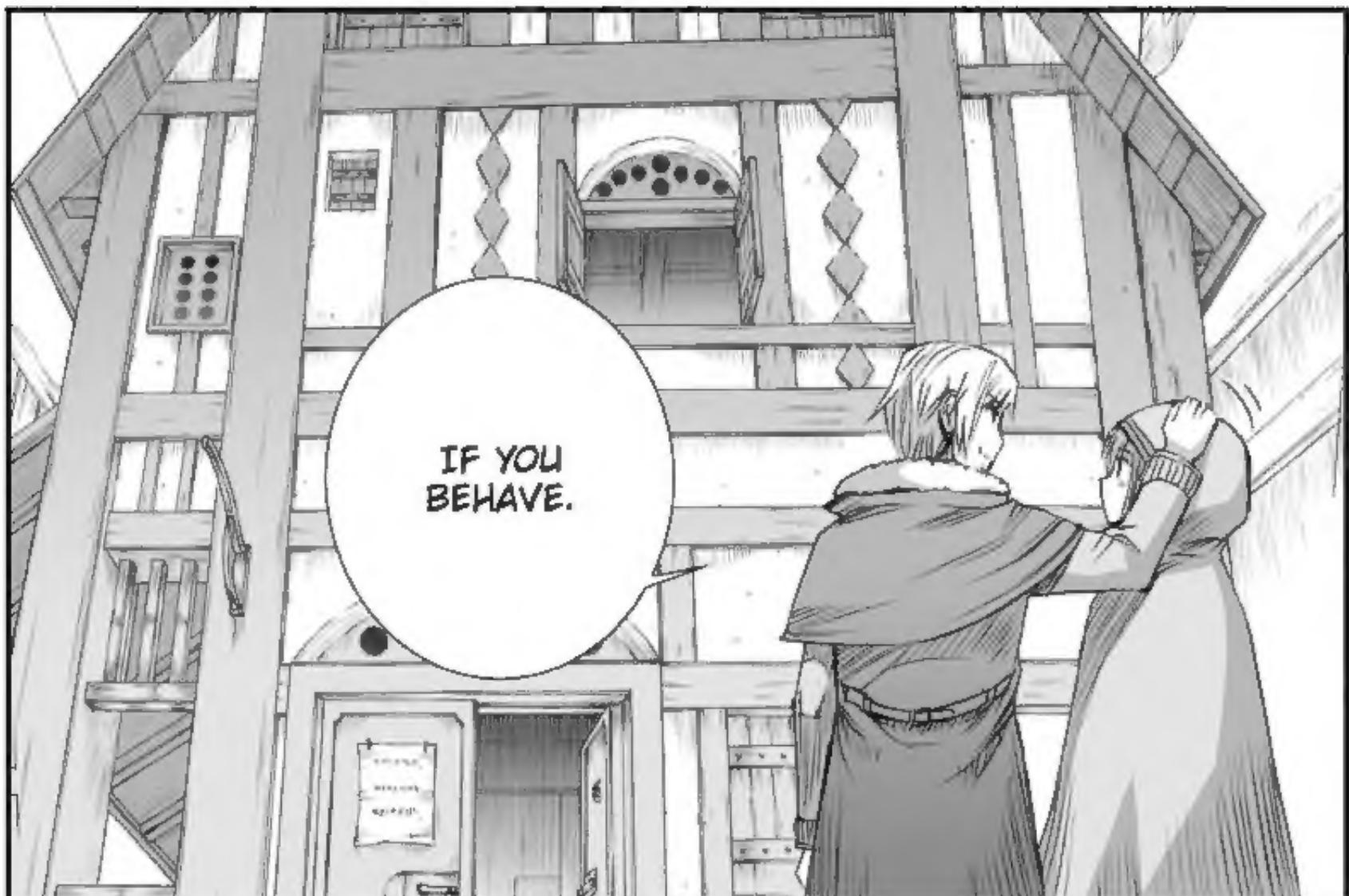




NOT THE
NAME OF
A PUP?







To be continued in Volume 14...

AFTERWORD

THE MANGA VERSION OF SPICE AND WOLF HAS
ALREADY REACHED VOLUME 13. TRULY, THANK YOU.
I WILL DO MY BEST TO RE-CREATE THE DRAMA
OF THESE TWO, WHO HAVE BEGUN
WALKING AS PARTNERS...!

ILLUSTRATOR
KEITO YOUNE
2016.2



Special
Thanks!

MR. OKAMOTO ITTOUHEI, MR. TENTSU TOI,
MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. ORIGUCHI

SPICE & WOLF 13

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KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: JASMINE BERNHARDT

LETTERING: KATIE BLAKESLEE

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